

East German SPD rejects coalition call

Kohl maps out new order for Europe

By Anne McElroy in East Berlin, Ian Murray in Bonn and Andrew McEwen

Boosted by his personal triumph in the East German election campaign, Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, yesterday mapped out the future of a new peace order in Europe in which a rapidly united Germany would be the key player.

But, in the aftermath of the centre-right's sweeping victory, politicians in both East and West Germany continued to squabble over the pace of reunification.

East Germany's victorious Christian Democratic leader Herr Lothar de Maizière yesterday invited the Social Democrats and the tiny Liberal alliance to join him in a grand coalition to lead the country into unification. But the Social Democrats, smarting from their unexpected defeat in Sunday's elections, immediately turned him down.

The leader of the Social Democratic Party, Herr Ibrahim Böhme, said that he was keeping to his election pledge not to form a coalition including the most right-wing of the three Conservative Alliance parties - the German Social Union.

The Alliance, which fell just short of an absolute majority, could rule in coalition with the smudgy collection of Liberal parties. But without the participation of the Social Democrats they will have

difficulty raising the two thirds majority in the Volkskammer (parliament) necessary to change the East Germany constitution and thus speed up progress towards unification.

The outcome of the East German election delighted Mrs Margaret Thatcher and pleased Washington and other Nato capitals, but evoked only a lukewarm response from Moscow.

The Prime Minister called it "a great day for East Germany and for Europe" and attributed part of the credit to Chancellor Kohl who played a prominent campaigning role.

"The result is a tremendous victory for the centre-right. I know how hard you personally worked for that outcome and it is the greatest possible credit to you," she said in a letter to Herr Kohl.

The US and British Governments believe that the outcome greatly increases the chances that a united Germany will be a member of Nato. Although Moscow strongly opposes this, it has found no support from the new East European democracies.

Herr Lafontaine said that the next round of talks between the "two" Germanies and the "four" victorious Second World War allies will take place in East Berlin, probably before the end of the month. From now on the Soviet Union will be alone, within these "two plus four" talks, in voicing any objection to a united Germany remaining inside Nato.

Herr Kohl said yesterday that he hoped it would be possible to complete these negotiations on the external aspects of reunification by the time the special summit of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) meets, probably towards the end of the year but before the West German elections planned for December 2.

As the Chancellor also made plain yesterday, he believes that a united Germany must not be neutral but firmly anchored in Nato. Looking ahead, however, he wants to see the development of a new security system in which both Nato and the Warsaw Pact are likely to be sworn in as East Germany's first elected Prime Minister when he has formed his government promised that currency and economic union with West Germany would be forged as soon as possible.

The result has also strengthened a belief in London and Washington that the Warsaw Pact is in its final phase. Some predict that it will be wound up before the end of the year. But the Soviet news agency

RIA Novosti said the number of robberies carried out for an insurance payout was increasing worldwide..... Page 13, 15

Appeal granted

The Court of Appeal yesterday cleared a former Manchester police officer, jailed for 17 years for robbery and firearms offences. His trial was described as a travesty of justice based on fabricated police evidence..... Page 3

Polluted seas

Twenty marine scientists say the discharge of untreated sewage into the sea is a serious health hazard, contradicting previous views..... Page 5

Regime relents

President Mengistu of Ethiopia, whose regime was once Africa's most rigidly Marxist-Leninist, now says a multi-party system would be acceptable in his country, torn by economic collapse and civil war..... Page 3

Could do better

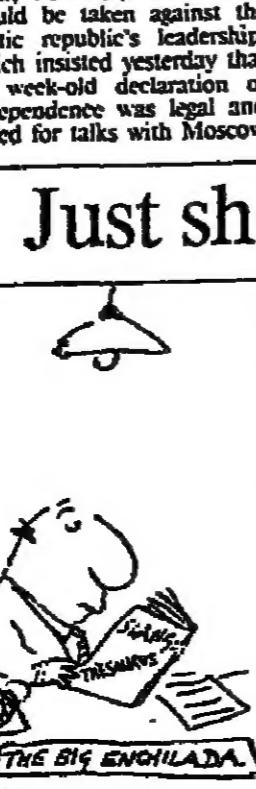
The London Stock Exchange hopes to improve its service to small investors after an internal committee said retail customers had "a raw deal since Big Bang". Page 23

Tackling fame

James "Buster" Douglas, the world heavyweight boxing champion, is learning to live with fame..... Page 40

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By Philip Howard
Literary Editor

Is the big enchilada watching you? And if so, is that a respectful way of referring to the Editor of *The Times*? *The Thesaurus of American Slang* is published in the United Kingdom by Collins on Thursday, as an awful warning of the way we may be talking soon. Slang follows the soap opera and pop song across the Atlantic, because there are more of them muddling the language over there.

Item: "The next time your big enchilada jerks your chains, don't act like a candy-ass; instead, kick ass, or end up as dead meat in Tap City." Being translated into standard English, this means, approximately: "If your employer vexes you severely, do not behave like a milksop; instead, keep a stiff upper lip, or he will walk all over you." The

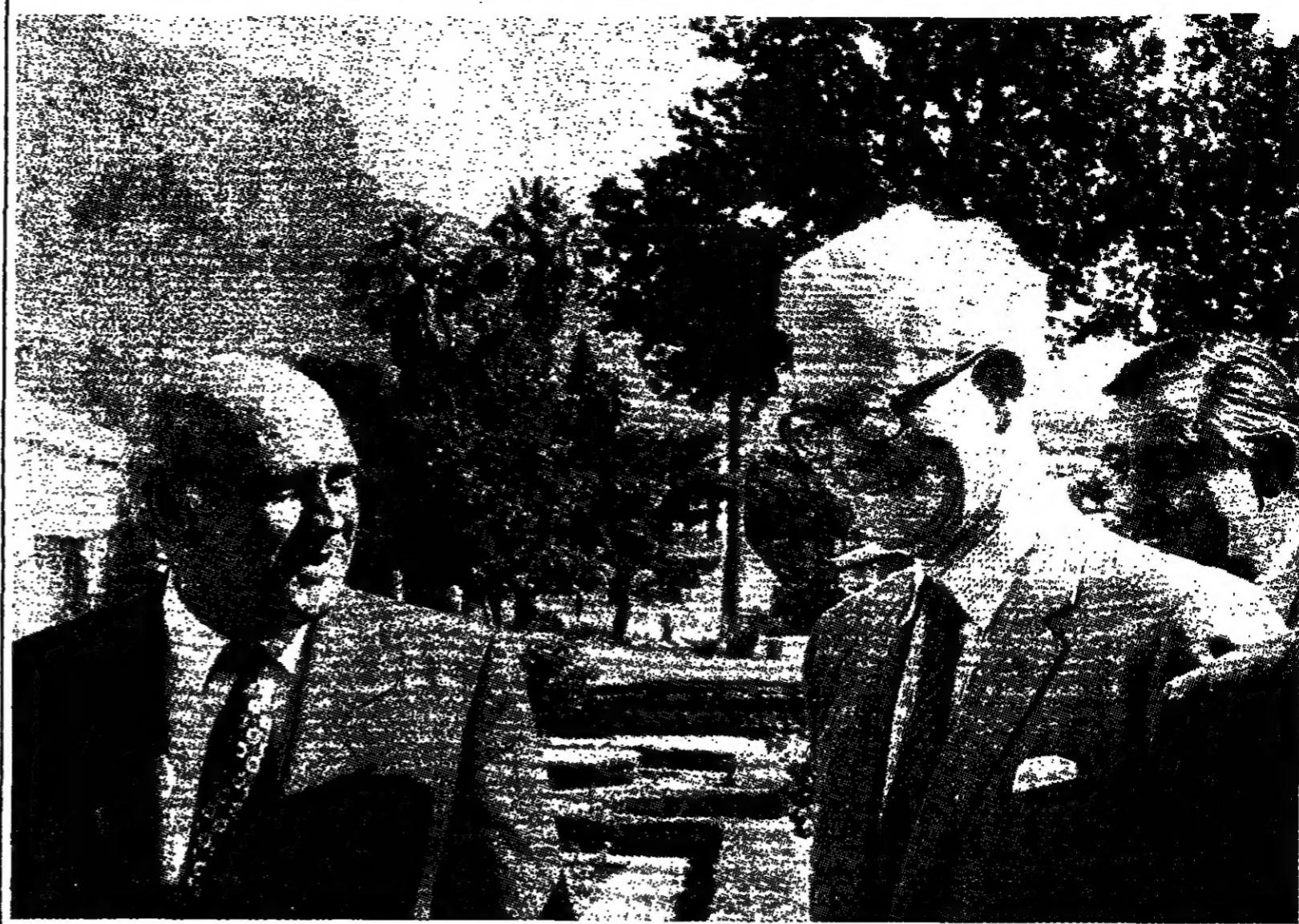
thesaurus lists in alphabetical bundles more than 17,000 words and phrases of current American slang that can be expected, in the flow of fashion, to be on our lips shortly. The latest word on American lex suggests that we shall soon be "anxty" instead of excited; instead of compliments, we shall give our friends "warm fuzzies"; the office dogsbody will be known as a "low-level Munchkin".

If you believe that all of this slang is coming across the Atlantic to us, you will believe anything. Not all slang catches on, in either direction. Americans, contrary to the popular myth, seem more interested in bottoms than Brits. On first inspection, one thing that seems to have happened to American slang in the past decade or so is that it

University, who is in his 70s, and therefore quite obsolescent in his conversation. Last night he suggested that in the past 20 to 30 years the traditional sources of American slang for a century or more have dried up. Railroad workers cannot be matched for vivid language by the blue-blazers or suits in the airline industry. Professor Chapman says that the two rich new wells of slang in the States are blacks and yuppies. "Black English is a new and fertile undercurrent of language. And the young, prosperous yuppies go into business and government of our acquisition culture, and make fun of it in their slang."

Our common language has moved on in the 375 years since the Pilgrim Fathers sailed the ocean blue. But it is going to take some of us a while to come to call the old Ed. the big enchilada.

Hurd meets de Klerk for talks on aid



Mr Douglas Hurd, Foreign Secretary, right, with President de Klerk at Cape Town yesterday, discussing British aid to the Cape Flats area. Village raid, page 9

Howe warns of tough Budget to aid economy

By Robin Oakley and Nicholas Wood

Sir Geoffrey Howe signalled a tough Budget today by promising that the Government would not flinch from difficult economic choices for the sake of electoral expediency.

In words calculated to bring home the gravity of problems facing the economy, the Deputy Prime Minister drew a parallel between his "instantly unpopular but crucially necessary budget of 1981" and the task facing Mr John Major, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

He told a by-election meeting at Mid-Staffordshire: "Today, the economic challenge we face is certainly less daunting than in 1981. But it requires and will receive the sort of political commitment which we have shown only this Conservative government is prepared to give.

Others would fume the challenge, avoid the difficult choices, let things rip. They would be seduced by the gimmickry and convenience politics that cost us so dear in the past."

Most Conservative MPs expect the Chancellor to do something to soften the impact of the community charge by increasing the savings limits below which pensioners and married couples qualify for poll tax relief.

However, MPs are hoping Mr Major will leave what is bound to be a comparatively dull Budget with new in-

centives for savings, including a possible end to the composite rate tax on bank and building society savings, which penalizes non-taxpayers who cannot recover it.

There were hopes that the Chancellor would give tax relief for child care to improve the lot of working mothers. However, there was little hope of a lifting of the £30,000 ceiling on mortgage tax relief.

Mr Geoffrey said the Government would not jeopardize its revival strategy by courting short-term popularity.

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Special team for war crime cases

By Sheila Gunn, Political Reporter

The cases against 301 suspected Nazi war criminals are to be investigated by a Government-funded team of police officers with the prospect of mounting Britain's first trials within the next year.

Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, yesterday assuaged much of the Tory backbench unrest by emphasizing that it would be wrong to establish special legal procedures for trying war criminals, and denied he would do so. But he insisted that the Bill, clearing the way for the first trials to take place, was "not just making a fine gesture with no substance". He believed that fair trials could be mounted, even after 50 years.

Although most MPs welcomed the Bill, there is widespread unease in both Houses at proposed amendments to the Scottish law reforms legislation to bring Scottish law into line with English law.

The amendments would open the way for witnesses, many living in the Soviet Union and Israel, to give evidence by a live television link and through video recordings.

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Leading article, page 15

Labour in reselection switch

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

Labour Party leaders last night made the first moves towards abandoning the system under which all its MPs have to face reselection every Parliament.

At the same time they moved to end the guaranteed role of the trade unions in selection procedures.

The dismantling of one of the main British constitutional changes pushed through the party in the early 1980s began as Labour's organization committee considered an analysis by Mr Larry Wherry, the party's general secretary, of the reselections completed so far in the present Parliament.

The analysis, which will form the basis of a paper to be

Continued on page 22, col 5

Design faults in disaster boat

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

Survivors of the Marchioness riverboat boat tragedy last night demanded a public inquiry into the disaster as design faults and lack of action by the Department of Transport were blamed for the accident.

The long-term design faults and the failure of the vessels' lookout system are highlighted as the immediate causes of the collision between the dredger Bowbelle and the pleasure boat Marchioness on the Thames in which 51 people died.

According to leaked extracts of a draft report from the Marine Accident Investigation Bureau no individual was especially responsible for the accident.

"There was no wilful misconduct in either vessel contributing to the collision,"

Design faults, page 2

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Boat design faults are blamed for 51 deaths on Thames

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

Design faults which could be traced back 25 years and a lack of action by the Department of Transport after three previous accidents on the Thames were the underlying causes of the Marchioness boat disaster in which 51 died.

However, the immediate cause of the tragedy was the failure of lookouts on the Marchioness pleasure cruiser and the Bowbelle dredger to spot each other until it was too late, according to leaked extracts from a draft report by the Marine Accident Investigation Bureau.

When the men on lookout on the Bowbelle spotted the danger, they could only shout a warning, which could not be heard above the noise of the Marchioness discotheque.

There was no other way of communicating with the skipper, even though the vessel had four hand-held VHF sets, two of which were inoperable, the report says.

The draft report, which has been sent to those named in it to allow them to comment on the findings, lists a further eight contributory factors which caused the disaster last August.

Visibility from the wheelhouse of each vessel was seriously restricted because of their construction. In each vessel, the restricted visibility was caused by the position and design of the wheelhouse and stemmed from inadequate consideration of the needs of the navigator at the design stage in the Bowbelle and at the time of the conversion of the Marchioness.

The difficulties were made worse by the lights of each vessel being made inconspicuous against the background of shore lights and perhaps other craft.

Both vessels were using the middle part of the river's fairway and the central arches of a bridge near Cannon Street station, central London, but neither was necessarily in a place they should not have been.

Clear instructions were not given to the forward lookout aboard the Bowbelle. He made no report when he first noticed the Marchioness, as his instructions were to report a vessel only if he considered it to be a hazard.

The draft report says it is probable that the Marchioness had been seen from the Bowbelle at a relatively early stage but had not been recognized for what it was, perhaps because of the proliferation of other lights.

Further contributory factors were the strength of the tide, the noise from the discotheque party, lack of conspicuous navigation lights on each vessel and the tiredness of the Marchioness' skipper. He had undertaken one discotheque cruise that night but, although he had been on duty

for nine-and-a-half hours, he had spent less than half that time on the river.

The report is critical of the manner in which the Department of Transport dealt with its responsibilities. It says that after a series of accidents on the Thames between 1981 and 1983 action was initiated by the department to improve visibility. "It is, therefore, clear that the incidents of the early 1980s were recognized at the time as providing a warning of the possibility of a major accident... that as time passed, the perceived need for special caution gradually relaxed."

The report says: "It is not considered that, in all respects, action taken by the department in the last few years has gone as far as it should have, and in particular it will be clear that it is not considered the steps taken to improve visibility were adequate."

It says that those in charge of the navigation of both vessels concerned must bear a big measure of the responsibility but that others must also share the blame.

They also stem from failure, widespread over many years among those with senior responsibility in the shipping industry, to look at the design and operation of ships as a complete and integrated whole. No one act is found to have been especially responsible for the accident."

The report recommends that extra staff trained in emergencies to help evacuate passengers should be on vessels, military helicopters on search-and-rescue work should carry infra-red heat seeking equipment. All vessels of more than 40 metres operating above Cherry Garden Pier, central London, by night should carry a light suspended above the bow or on each side illuminating the bow.

All vessels over 40m with a rear wheelhouse, operating above the Thames Barrier, east London, should have a lookout stationed forward at all times and instructed to report all sightings.

Those in charge of Thames passenger launches should be reminded to check frequently astern and to keep continuous radio watch. New regulations should require minimum standards of visibility from the steering position of passenger launches and vessels on the Thames should be required to keep as far as possible to starboard of the fairway.

For vessels on which discotheque parties are held, provision should be made for all sound to be cut out when safety announcements are to be made and there should be regulations on the sound level at the wheelhouse when a discotheque is taking place.

A power in the kitchen



Mrs Margaret Thatcher helping to cook a meat substitute at the Ideal Home exhibition in Earls Court, west London, yesterday. The Prime Minister preferred its colour to the taste.

Jail report calls for 90 changes

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

The Northern Ireland Office confirmed yesterday that an investigation into security at Crumlin Road jail, Belfast, has made 90 recommendations for change in how the prison should be run.

The confidential report, by a prison governor with the Scottish prison service, was ordered after an attempted mass break-out from the jail by republican prisoners last October.

The completion of the report comes amid fresh controversy over allegations of mistreatment of prisoners in Northern Ireland jails by prison staff.

Reports in Dublin yesterday said three prison officers in Ulster had been suspended in the past two years as a result of alleged ill-treatment of prisoners. A fourth was reported to have resigned before his suspension was ordered.

The Northern Ireland Office said two officers are to face court proceedings while another had already been investigated and fined £100.

Last week the Irish Supreme Court refused to extradite two convicted terrorists to Ulster fearing they may be ill-treated

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It is thought many of the recommendations in the report deal with measures designed to prevent future break-outs and to stop visitors smuggling weapons and ammunition inside. Officials say many of the suggested changes are relatively minor.

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One military source also said

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Trial of PC jailed 17 years was travesty of justice

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

A former Manchester police officer who was jailed for 17 years for robbery and firearms offences was cleared by the Court of Appeal yesterday after his trial was described as a travesty of justice fuelled by fabricated evidence from the police.

Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, said that Mr Thomas Gerard Corley, who was convicted last year after 11 years as a Greater Manchester police officer, had spent nearly two years in prison for offences he "certainly never committed" in what was a "sorry story" of lies and conspiracy.

The convictions were plainly unsatisfactory. If the Crown Prosecution Service had known a quarter of what had emerged after the trial, the constable would never have been brought to court, Lord Lane said.

Mr Corley, aged 32, of Dean Close, Partington, was convicted last May of conspiracy to rob and transferring a gun. Five months later, he was freed on bail pending appeal.

Mr Gareth Edwards, QC, for Mr Corley, said yesterday that the trial had been a "travesty of justice" as counsel for the Director of Public Prosecutions offered no opposition to the appeal. Mr Edwards said the case was a scandal and the only good to come out of it was the thorough and speedy inquiry by the West Yorkshire police, which exonerated Mr Corley and implicated two of his more senior officers.

The investigation showed a mass of fabricated evidence after an armed attack on a security guard near Manchester in 1987. Two police officers had "trawled" criminals

for evidence to link Mr Corley to the crime, offering cash, bail arrangements and deals to get them to talk.

Lord Lane, sitting with Mr Justice Roch and Mr Justice Judge, said Mr Corley's behaviour as a police officer was unorthodox and, to say the least, was at times indiscreet. He was investigated by senior officers, who themselves are under investigation, and they had tried to find a connection with serious crime.

Lord Lane said three men who admitted complicity in the £11,000 wages snatching implicated Mr Corley, claiming he was the mastermind. They picked him out at an identity parade, but not before being provided with photographs of the officer. They were even primed with personal details about him to make it look as though they knew him.

Lord Lane said that for this "valuable information" the charges against them were reduced to simple robbery and each received 10-year sentences. However, on appeal, after being told of the great assistance they had given to the police, the sentences were reduced to six years.

Another criminal had implicated Mr Corley in the supply of a handgun, and was let out on bail for his help, only to commit more robberies. Other men were also brought into this "lying conspiracy", Lord Lane said.

Neither the defence nor the Crown Prosecution Service was aware of how the evidence had been obtained. Evidence favourable to Mr Corley had been suppressed.

"In the upshot, neither the CPS nor the defence was alerted to the quite clear dangers

which existed in the prosecution evidence. If the CPS had known just one quarter of this, there is no question but that they would have dropped the prosecution immediately."

The criminals wanted credit for helping the police. However, when some changed their stories and admitted Mr Corley had been "fitted up", the CPS was not told, nor was his defence counsel, as they should have been. If they had been, there was no doubt that the prosecution would have been dropped, Lord Lane said.

The truth was disclosed after the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester ordered the West Yorkshire force to investigate. Mr Corley's pleas that the evidence was a fabrication and barefaced conspiracy were finally believed. Lord Lane said it had been a "distressing story to recount, but the moral is obvious and it is hoped in future that they will be observed".

The names of the senior officers involved were kept secret because the inquiry into their actions has yet to report, Lord Lane said. He agreed with the Crown's decision not to proceed with a "trivial" charge against Mr Corley because it would be "oppressive".

Mr Corley, who surrendered to bail at the High Court, said: "I am grateful they have cleared my name. My life has been shattered. I am going to pick up the threads of my life with my wife. I am very relieved but I will never recover. It was bad being a copper in prison."

Mr Stephen Murphy, chairman of the Greater Manchester police authority, said yesterday the two senior officers had been suspended.

The investigation showed a

mass of fabricated evidence

after an armed attack on a

security guard near Manches-

ter in 1987. Two police officers

had "trawled" criminals

for evidence to link Mr Corley to the crime, offering cash, bail arrangements and deals to get them to talk.

Lord Lane, sitting with Mr Justice Roch and Mr Justice Judge, said Mr Corley's behaviour as a police officer was unorthodox and, to say the least, was at times indiscreet. He was investigated by senior officers, who themselves are under investigation, and they had tried to find a connection with serious crime.

Lord Lane said three men

who admitted complicity in the £11,000 wages snatching implicated Mr Corley, claiming he was the mastermind. They picked him out at an identity parade, but not before being provided with photographs of the officer. They were even primed with personal details about him to make it look as though they knew him.

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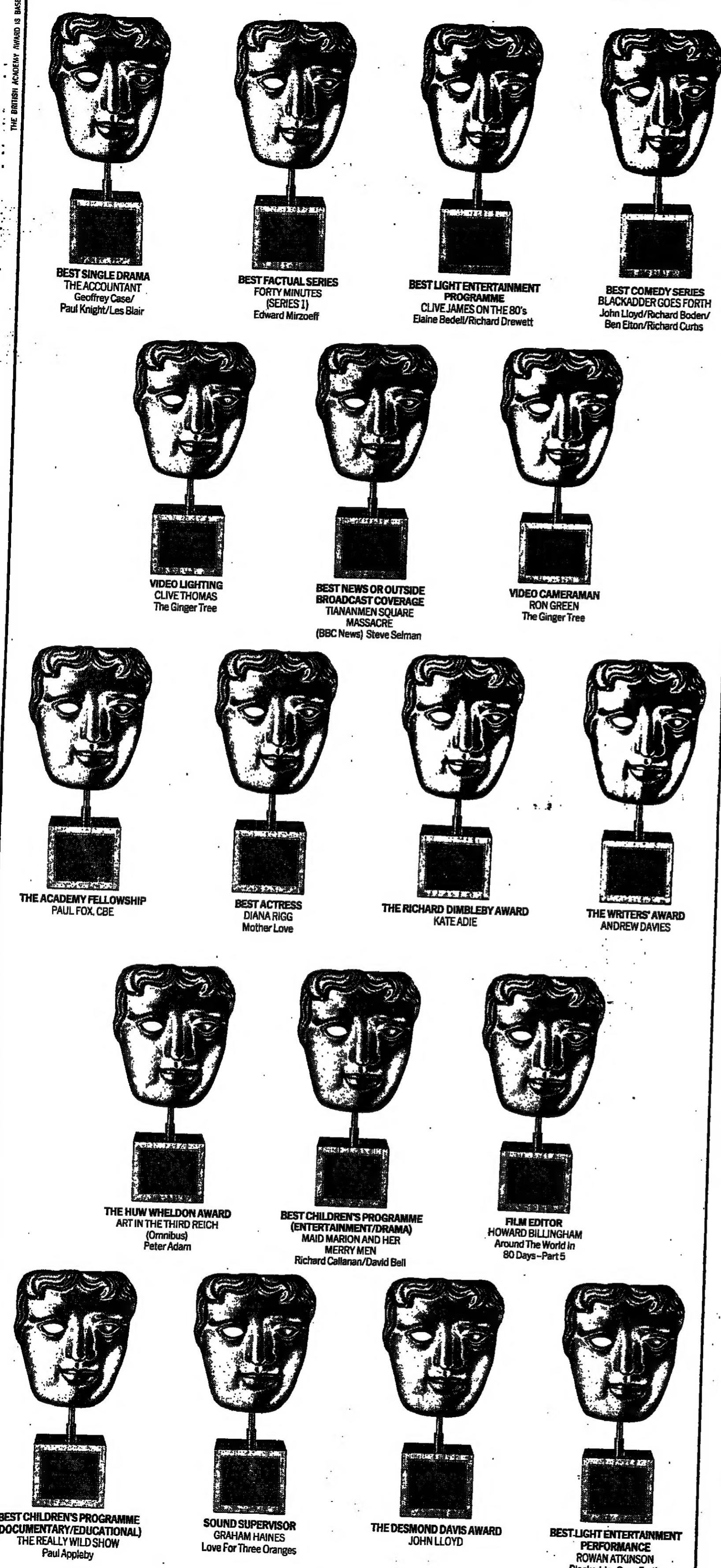
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BBC WINNERS AT THE 21st BRITISH ACADEMY OF FILM AND TELEVISION ARTS AWARDS



“The strength of the BBC is that it aspires to provide all its programming to the same professional standards.

We do not draw arbitrary lines between 'mainstream' and 'minority' programmes.

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MICHAEL CHECKLAND
BBC DIRECTOR-GENERAL 1990

POLLUTION OF THE SEAS

Study of oceans shows pollution link with disease

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The threat to public health and marine life from pollution of coastal waters has increased everywhere in the world in the past 10 years. 20 of the world's leading marine scientists say in an international study published yesterday.

They identify the discharge of untreated sewage as the greatest health and environmental hazard, contradicting the view that there is no obvious link between human disease and polluted sea water.

They reached their conclusion after a global investigation of the open seas and coastal waters conducted for the United Nations Environment Programme.

Professor Alasdair McIntyre, of Aberdeen University, chairman of the Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution, said in London yesterday: "This is the first serious scientific overview by the group of the health of the world's oceans in eight years.

"We no longer accept the earlier view that there was no

demonstrable causal link between human disease and bathing in contaminated sea water.

"Recent epidemiological studies in the United States and in the Mediterranean have cast a new light on the causal relationship between swimming in sea water contaminated with pathogens of faecal origin and disease among bathers," Professor McIntyre said.

It had been thought that such organisms lived only for a short time in sea water but "we are having to recognize this is not the case".

In one extreme case in the United States viruses, including the polio virus, had been found to survive at a dumping site for 17 months after disposal of sewage had stopped in marine waters, Professor McIntyre said.

The group's evidence comes less than a week after controversy arose over a submission to the Commons environment select committee that bathers and windsurfers

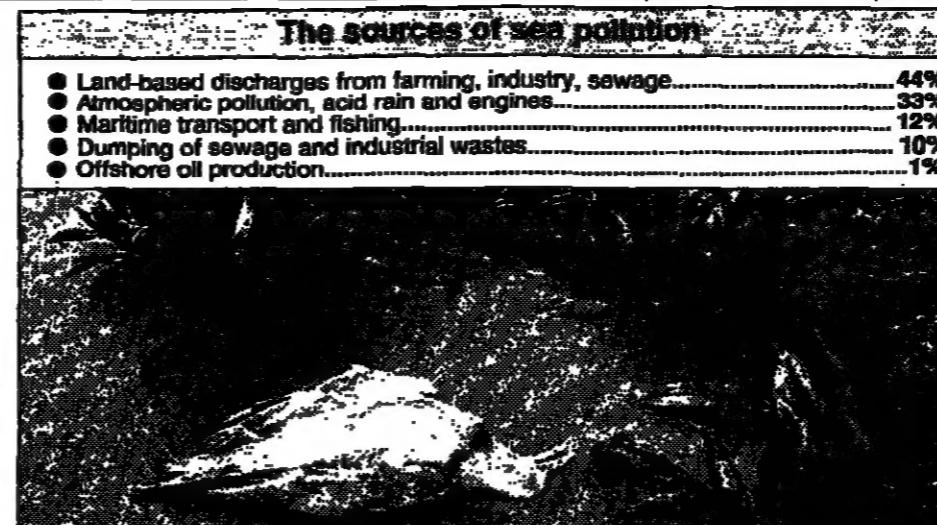
on Britain's coasts were at risk from infection from the HIV virus if cuts, sunburn sores and shingle scabs were exposed to contaminated waters.

Professor McIntyre said that in some circumstances the Aids virus might survive in sewage-polluted sea water but the chance was probably very slight.

The danger of infection in general was greater in warmer regions and holiday centres such as the Mediterranean where people spent several hours lazing in the water, the professor said. In Britain bathers spent little time, "usually minutes", in the water.

He said an equal health risk came from infected shellfish. Destruction of marine habitats and microbial contamination of beaches and the sea were causing the experts greatest anxiety.

One cause for concern was eutrophication, or over-enrichment of coastal waters by compounds that act as nutrients, such as phosphates and nitrates from agricultural



and industrial run-off. It produces excessive plant growth, or algal blooms, that take the oxygen from the water which in turn kills fish.

Other factors causing concern were the build-up of chlorinated hydrocarbons from pesticides; the dumping of such chemicals as PCBs, particularly in the tropics and sub-tropics; pollution of the sea by plastic litter and of tar accumulations; and the development of marinas, harbours, hotels and other coastal projects — particularly in Mediterranean resorts — with inadequate sewage and waste disposal schemes.

An additional hazard came from the increase in silt and brackishness of two-thirds of the water discharging from rivers, caused by deforestation and dam-building.

Professor McIntyre said: "Chemical contamination and litter can be observed from the Poles to the tropics and from beaches to abyssal depths."

Too little attention was paid to the consequences of coastal development, but there were also dangers from further inland. Vast amounts of silt and brackish water swept down rivers from deforestation affected the growth of fish life and marine organisms by blocking sunlight and changing the chemical balance of the environment.

"If you consider the continuing population growth, there is good reason to fear a significant deterioration in the marine environment in the next decade, unless strong coordinated national and international action is taken now."

"We are concerned that very low concentrations of toxic substances may produce effects at the sub-lethal level that could build up over long periods with significant damage to ecosystems," Professor McIntyre said.

"The open sea is relatively clean. In contrast, the margins of the sea, from the shore to the 200 to 300-metre water line, at the edge of the continental shelf, are affected by man almost everywhere. Man's fingerprint is found everywhere in the oceans."

The State of the Marine Environment (UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No 115)

Priority shift over danger to the oceans

Scientists have changed their priorities in listing the pollution dangers to the oceans.

The risk from traces of heavy metals from industry — such as cadmium, lead and mercury — that cause brain damage and can accumulate in the food chain is now of less concern.

There is anxiety, however, about the geographical spread of such man-made chemicals as the persistent chlorinated hydrocarbons. They are decreasing in the temperate areas but increasing in tropical areas.

Although high concentrations of those synthetic compounds are still found in sediments off the United States and in the North Sea and in fatty tissue of seals, the experts believe the contamination has not caused irreversible harm.

However, damage was caused to some mammals and fish-eating birds through impaired reproduction.

Instances of serious damage are increasing in tropical and sub-tropical areas.

No areas of the ocean and none of its resources appear yet to have been irreversibly damaged, but some zones are at great risk. They include the North Sea; Mediterranean areas, particularly off Spain, Turkey, Greece and Italy; the Nile delta; the Amazon delta; a site 100 miles off New York; San Francisco Bay; the Great Barrier reef; the Philippine coral reefs; the Gulf of Mexico and South-east Asia.

In the South Pacific, discarded monofilament nylon drift net trap and drown dolphins, whales, turtles and seals and cause the deaths of fish. North Pacific salmon meet the same fate.

Although exact figures have not been calculated, the destruction of beaches, coral reefs and wetlands, including mangrove forests, are recorded all over the world.

The coastal "explosion" is a reflection of the population increase, accelerated urban development and faster transport.

Controlling coastal development and protecting habitats will require changes in planning both inland and on the coast, probably involving painful social and political choices, according to Professor McIntyre.

State schools to adopt student teaching scheme

By David Tyler, Education Editor

Teachers should stop singing the praises of other professions while forgetting their own, Mr Ian Beer, the head master of Harrow, said yesterday. "It is time for us to get our own back."

Mr Beer was welcoming the Government's move to extend a work-experience plan introduced into independent schools last year.

Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, announced that the scheme would be extended into state schools, backed by £40,000 of taxpayers' money, supported by £50,000 from industry.

From September state schools will be able to pay £100 a week to students in their second or third year of a degree to work alongside teachers, as reported in *The Times* last December.

The scheme is an exact copy of the independent plan launched a year ago, but the Government is anxious not to be seen to be subsidizing the fee-payers.

In state schools half of every £100 paid will come from the Government and half from industry. In independent schools, half will come from the sponsors and half from the schools.

Mr Beer said: "We have been shooting ourselves in the foot by doing our best to provide work experience for our sixth formers, explaining the advantages of all the

Laser-feed may increase growth

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

American scientists are using lasers to make cattle feed more digestible in an attempt to encourage faster growth in animals.

Members of the US Government's Agricultural Research Service at Fort Collins, Colorado, found that laser-treated feed may dramatically boost the speed at which cattle grow.

An increase of 3 per cent in grass digestibility can improve growth rates by between a quarter and a third.

The team developing the laser treatment claims to have improved the digestibility of tall fescue grass by 11 per cent and switchgrass by 14 per cent.

Cows, sheep and other ruminants are able to digest plant fibre, but spend many hours regurgitating and rechewing the cud to allow bacteria and enzymes in their stomachs time to digest the cellulose.

With poor quality or older feed digestion can take longer. Some nutrients remain trapped inside leaves.

Lasers punch holes in hay, grass or silage so that stomach "juices" can penetrate the plant material faster, allowing the animal to extract nutrients more rapidly.

Dr James Forwood said the research unit was conducting studies to see if laser feed caused any harmful side-effects.

News of the treatment comes as British agricultural scientists have developed a way of making images of the digestibility of animal feed, using infra red light. It is

professions — the last thing they want to do is to stay in school. The time has come to get our own back, to show them that school is a very different thing if you are on the right side of the desk. There must be very many bright young men and women in our polytechnics and universities who would make great teachers," he said.

"They have been attracted by money but we have to show them that teaching is a reasonably well paid and satisfying job. We have to persuade them how exciting the very noble profession of teaching is."

Mr Beer's scheme attracted 43 students to 33 independent schools who were paid between £70 and £100 a week plus board and lodgings in the independent boarding schools. Six of them who had not previously considered teaching have decided to take up full-time training.

Mr MacGregor said: "The £100 seemed the realistic approach as many students traditionally earn money during vacation. I am delighted we can offer the same in our maintained schools."

Both men acknowledge the uncertainties in the scheme. Mr Benjamin Matthews, a history student at Durham University, who worked for two weeks at a boys' public school, said: "I enjoyed the experience... but I have decided to become a solicitor."

NUMBER VIII. TO BE A DISTILLERY MANAGER (OR NOT TO BE).

GLENMORANGIE

10 YEARS OLD

SINGLE HIGHLAND MALT SCOTCH WHISKY

Patience is NOT the only attribute demanded of a distillery manager.

(Though the length

of the whisky's maturation may make it seem so.) As a leader, he must enthuse his work-force. And, as

a successful businessman, he must placate his book-keeper and order-taker.

Such a diversity of roles may explain Ian McGregor's life-long involvement in his local 'AM DRAM' (the Amateur Dramatic Society of Tain) as producer, director and actor. And if asked to

disclose the reason for his delight in 'treading the boards' he replies wryly, "The only DRAMA in a production should be that which occurs upon the stage."

D. THE WHISKY'S DECAY OF MATURATION OCCURS WITHIN SCOTCH WHISKY, WHICH ACQUIRES ITS DISTINCTIVE NATURAL GOLDEN QUALITY, THIS IS CREATED BY MEANS OF PLEASING UPON THE EYE AS IT IS UPON THE PALATE.



*HANDCRAFTED by the SIXTEEN MEN of TAIN.

1990

Ministers face law suits over capping

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

The Government was yesterday confronted with the certain prospect of High Court action against any attempt to single out the Labour-controlled London boroughs for poll tax "capping".

Along with law suits, Mrs Margaret Hodge, leader of the Association of London Authorities (ALA), predicted months-long administrative chaos as capped councils withdraw one set of poll tax bills and tried to adjust their computers and billing systems to send out others.

She said capping would force inner-London boroughs, already struggling to accommodate educational responsibilities being inherited from the Inner London Education Authority, to abrogate their statutory obligations to provide schooling, social services and street cleansing and maintenance. This would require the courts to judge the reasonableness of action taken by Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment.

Mrs Hodge said the London boroughs were already seeking the advice of lawyers, both individually and as the ALA. "The Government appears to be making up the rules".

Under the local government finance Acts, the Department of the Environment has greater latitude than under the old rate-capping system to choose which councils, if any, will cap. Technically, the caps are imposed on council budgets but the object is for force councils to revise their poll tax levies downwards.

Whitehall is empowered to apply different criteria to inner-London boroughs than to outer ones and different selection criteria once again to shire districts and counties. Most shire districts are excluded from capping because the law absolves those local authorities with budgets of less than £15 million a year.

The City of London is also excluded, which is perhaps as well because it is on course to spend nearly £1,800 per head of population in excess of Whitehall's spending norms

yen simultaneously will be £12,122 per head below its approved budget.

Mr Patten has at least four methods of selecting councils for capping, measuring either against Whitehall's estimate of what a council needs to spend to provide services or against the officially approved budget. The Government can either work with percentages, which tends to throw up Labour-controlled shire districts such as Norwich and Middlesbrough, or with actual cash which tends to identify the Labour inner-London boroughs.

One problem for the Government is that while it would be easy to catch in its net such places as Greenwich, Lambeth, Islington (where Mrs Hodge is the leader) and Camden, it might also embarrass the Conservatives who rule in Kensington and Chelsea by trapping them, too. Kensington's spending in 1990-91 is likely to be about 16 per cent above officially approved levels. Ministers might choose to cap those councils where the poll tax is notably above Whitehall's figure for what councils need to spend — the standard spending assessment.

Those liable for poll tax in Greenwich are paying for services some £387 per head in excess of the Whitehall norm and the top overspenders on this measure, after Greenwich, are Lambeth, Haringey, Hammersmith, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Islington, Hackney, Camden, and Brent. All are Labour-controlled except Tower Hamlets where the Liberal Democrats hold power.

But if the Government insisted that poll-tax bills in the inner-London boroughs had to be cut by say, £1,000 a head, this would mean the councils having to save tens of millions of pounds within the remaining nine months of the financial year.

The ALA said printing new poll-tax bills would cost a minimum of £80,000 in an average-sized borough.

In the shadow of a new rate

By Peter Davyport

In a commemorative booklet to mark the 150th anniversary of the family business at Stonegate, in the shadow of York Minster, Mr Ben Kilvington wrote of his satisfaction that another generation was shouldering the tradition.

He also expressed grateful thanks to customers and staff throughout the ages who had enabled the firm to "survive and prosper" in an exceptionally beautiful street in which the family felt privileged to carry on their trade.

That anniversary was two years ago. Mr Kilvington, aged 67, was in a much more sombre mood yesterday about the health and shape of the family company of iron and wire workers and weavers.

The cause of his concern is the impact of the uniform business rate, which is due to come into effect on April 1 and is having a dramatic impact in the city of York in general and along the narrow, flagstone street of Stonegate in particular.

Mr Kilvington's business, in which his wife, Violet, and son, Simon, are partners, paid £3,763 in rates last year. Under the business rate system, the bill will be £25,404.

Although its impact will be eased by a five-year transitional period, he said the rating system posed the most severe financial threat that the family firm had faced.

"The figure represents an eight-fold increase and I simply cannot increase the prices of my goods eight times to meet that. I am having to consider other options to meet my obligations and I just hope they will allow us to carry on our retail trade from these premises," he said.

Mr Kilvington, whose shelves of decorative brasses and ironwork are a popular draw for American tourists who flock to the city, is a founder and past chairman of the Stonegate Traders Association. Like many of his neighbours and fellow businessmen, he hopes that in his Budget today, Mr John Major, Chancellor of the Exchequer, will at least indicate that the transitional period will be extended to 10 years.

The Government has announced a scheme known as "transitional relief" to help commercial rate payers facing big rate rises. Under the new system, rates on properties with a new rateable value of more than £10,000 will not increase by more than 20 per cent, plus inflation, each year. Those with a new



Stonegate, in the shadow of York Minster, where traders face a big increase in the rates bill.

value below that figure will not increase by more than 15 per cent, plus inflation. The relief will continue annually until the full rates become payable, or for a maximum of five years.

In medieval Stonegate, the shops are a mix of locally owned family businesses and national chains. Some of the increases in ratesable values are dramatic.

A clothes store will see its ratesable value increase from £2,597 to £115,000 and its business rate bill from £6,641 to £40,020. A locally owned form of china specialists will have an increase from £3,472 to £190,000 and its bill from £8,878 to £66,120.

Mr Michael Brown, chief executive of York's Chamber

of Trade, Commerce and Industry, said yesterday that the city had come out on top of a national table of levels of increase imposed by the uniform business rate.

The organization is lobbying MPs and hopes to arrange a meeting with Mr David Hunt, Minister for Local Government and Inner Cities, to press the case for improved transitional measures.

In a recent newsletter to its members, the chamber said that the effect of the increases could be "catastrophic" for the centre of the city.

"There must be serious concern that some businesses will close. York is a major tourist destination but we also want to be a major shopping attraction, and part of that

means ensuring a happy mix of businesses in the city centre. We don't just want major chains and fastfood outlets."

Mr Michael Wey, deputy city treasurer, said that York had been hit severely by the new business rate for two reasons. Since the last revaluation in 1973, it had enjoyed a boom which was reflected in property prices. Secondly, the local council had traditionally introduced low rates.

In Mr Kilvington's shop, there are a succession of photographs and ancient prints showing each successive head of the family posing outside their shop. He said he hoped the next picture to go up on the wall, that of his son, would not be the last.

Poll tax cost may increase after Budget

By Ray Clancy

Forecasts that poll tax rebates are to be changed in today's Budget dismayed local authorities yesterday as they disclosed that the charge is on average three times more expensive to collect and administer than the rates.

Mr John Major, the Chancellor, is expected to raise the £8,000 savings qualifying limit for rebates to between £10,000 and £16,000. With more people qualifying for rebates than councils had estimated, collection costs will rise enormously.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities said a higher threshold would mean many bills would be wrong because they did not give rebates and there would be a rush of new claims.

It said the much higher cost of running the poll tax included the hiring of over 8,000 extra staff in England and Wales.

According to the Association of London Authorities, inner London has the added problem of collecting the tax from a highly mobile and young population. Authorities with a high number of council tenants also faced added costs because rent and rates used to be collected together.

Mr Steve Lord, the ALA finance officer, said: "Many

authorities are in a dilemma as to whether they pursue policies that make it easy for people to pay because these methods turn out to be very costly. Allowing cash payments means extra security and collecting fortnightly costs more than monthly."

Charge capping would also add to expense. The ALA believes it could cost each capped authority £1 million in re-billing and cash-flow losses.

In Lewisham, south-east London, the poll tax is costing £25 a head to collect compared with £15 for rates. In Oxford, collection and administration is estimated at £3,000, a fivefold increase on last year's costs.

In Newcastle upon Tyne the council estimated that it will cost £1.5 million to collect the poll tax, three times more than for last year's rates.

• Councils in England are to receive a government grant worth £21 million to cover the cost of one part of the poll tax rebate scheme (David Walker writes).

Mr David Hunt, the local government minister, said the money would pay for the extra administrative costs of the "transitional relief" scheme under which individuals facing a sharp rise in their payments can claim a rebate.

'90% of Scots are paying charge'

By Kerry Gill

Ninety per cent of Scots are paying their community charge, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Secretary of State for Scotland, said yesterday.

Defending the poll tax, Mr Rifkind said that the vast majority of people liable to pay were obeying the law. Speaking at the Scottish Grand Committee in Edinburgh, the first to be televised outside Parliament, he said that payment figures were 97 per cent in Grampian Region, 98 per cent in the Borders and 93 per cent in Tayside.

Even in Strathclyde, where 350,000 summary warrants have been issued against people who have refused to

pay or are in arrears, the payment level was 85 per cent.

Although the number of people in Scotland who have not paid or are in arrears is now estimated at about 600,000, Mr Rifkind said that Strathclyde had issued summary warrants to only 15 per cent of those liable for the tax.

He conceded, however, that the poll tax was not yet a perfect system but was being improved as and when it was deemed necessary. "The numbers (of summary warrants) are greater but there is a substantial number of people who do not like paying their taxes until very late in the day," Mr Rifkind said.

Mellor reports record number of drug addicts

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

Britain had a record 14,785 notified narcotic addicts last year but the overall addict population could be up to 10 times that figure, reaching 150,000, Mr David Mellor, the Home Office minister responsible for drug policy, said yesterday.

The company says that about 40 per cent of workers in its 289 stores leave each year.

The wage increases underline the competition for staff at a time when retailers are becoming increasingly worried about the implications for recruitment of the rapid decline in school leavers.

Minimum rises will be 8.5 per cent but some staff will get up to 15 per cent in a regrading exercise, which will put about £27 million on the company wage bill and also save it from a potentially embarrassing pay test case.

The Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers announced that it was dropping charges against the company after Sainsbury's ordered a thorough review of the salary and promotion structure for its weekly paid workforce.

The results, announced to staff yesterday, mean better rewards for skill, clearer promotional opportunities and more flexible hours.

More cheerfully, bank base rates would be cut by 2 per cent, child benefit would be raised by 50 per cent, and pensions would be increased by 10 per cent above inflation.

People earning more than £18,000 a year would face higher taxes, but there would be reductions for the low paid.

The union was pursuing the case of Mrs Geraldine O'Sullivan, a checkout operator at a south-east London store, who was claiming work of equal value to higher paid warehousemen.

"We underestimate cocaine at our peril," the minister said, pointing particularly to the risk from "crack" a potent refinement of cocaine.

Checkout operators will be included in some of the highest awards after the review, in which the union took part.

Employers get advice on Aids

Every employer in the country is to receive updated information about Aids and to be urged not to discriminate against workers with the virus.

A booklet is being sent to 400,000 companies this week advising managers to give HIV-infected staff equal standing. Mr Michael Howard, the Secretary of State for Employment, whose department has helped to produce the booklet, said workers should never be dismissed because they have the virus.

"Employers may have to deal with fear and potential victimization over this issue so it is important they have a policy."

Companies should not ask applicants to take an HIV test, he said.

GP appeal

Dr Navin Rastogi, a GP in Bolsover, Derbyshire, who was suspended for failing to provide proper treatment for two patients who later died, has won an appeal to resume practising after the General Medical Council accepted that he had improved his methods.

Child award

Michael Bisce, aged six, who suffered brain damage at birth, was awarded £70,000 agreed damages against Ealing Health Authority in the High Court. His mother, Mrs Leila Bisce, of Ealing, north London, received £45,500.

Tax protest

Mr John Crook-Greening and his wife, Grace, of Bedford, say they will continue paying their rates of £1,100, even though their poll-tax is £300 lower, in protest at the "unfairness" of the new system.

Driving ban

The Oxford United footballer Lee Phillips was fined £250 and banned for three years for a second drink-drive offence. He is the sixth player with the club to be convicted of driving in three years.

Lake people

One in four people living in the Lake District National Park is retired or of retiring age and one in six houses is a holiday home, according to the National Park office.

Poll watcher

Mrs Edwina Currie, the Conservative MP for Derbyshire South, has been invited to be an observer at Romania's elections in May.

Labour hopeful sticks to the campaign script

By Nicholas Wood
Political Correspondent

Dr Johnson, whose statue dominates the market square in Lichfield, his birthplace, must have turned in his grave when Mrs Sylvia Heal, the Labour candidate, and Mr Denis Healey, the former Labour Chancellor, went foraging for votes in the town in the Mid Staffordshire by-election yesterday.

Johnson, it will be recalled, likened a woman preaching to a dog walking on its hind legs. In a less celebrated but equally inflammatory utterance, he also struck this blow against the career woman: "A man is in general better pleased when he has a good dinner upon his table, than when his wife talks Greek."

And that, in a sense, sums up the Conservatives' difficulty as they contemplate almost certain defeat on Thursday.

Mrs Heal might as well have been talking Greek for all the success her opponents have had in forcing her to depart from the prepared script constructed for her by Mr Peter Mandelson, Labour's director of communications.

Yesterday, it was Mr Chris Patten's turn to accuse her of hiding her true colours from the electorate.

The response from the Labour Party has been the now traditional Mandelson-style sealed lips campaign, answering none of the questions, particularly on the most contentious issues, the Secretary of State for the Environment, who knows a thing or two about contentious issues, complained. On the main

controversy issue — the poll tax — Mr Patten admitted there were "political hazards" to scrapping the rates but denied it would personally cost Mr Charles Prior, the Tory candidate, a safe seat.

Mr Patten also scotched suggestions that his private commitment to the poll tax was less than total.

Mr Tim Jones, the Liberal Democrat candidate, whose campaign has been buoyed by holding seat in the council by-election last week, sounded equally frustrated.

Labour was fighting the most negative campaign in decades, and trying to "corner" the voters with a shallow, American-style campaign.

Labour is clearly becoming a trifling touchy about the "Barbie Doll" jibes being thrown at Mrs Heal. Mr Robin Cook, chief labour spokesman, broke off from

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March 19 1990

PARLIAMENT

Police team to pursue war crimes inquiry

A team of nine police officers is to be established to continue the work of the war crimes inquiry into alleged war criminals living in this country, Mr David Waddington, Home Secretary, told MPs when he moved the second reading of the War Crimes Bill.

The inquiry, by Sir Thomas Hetherington and Mr William Clumbers, was set up in 1988 and reported to the Home Secretary in June last year.

The Home Secretary, Mr Waddington, will be under the control of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner and will be funded by central government. Evidence recorded on video will be admitted at any trials and the law of Scotland will be changed to allow that procedure north of the border.

Mr Waddington said that the War Crimes Inquiry had decided that there was reason to suspect that among those who had settled in the United Kingdom after the war, there were some who had committed the most dreadful crimes.

On the basis of the law as it stood they could not be called to account for their actions. The inquiry recommended changing the law to enable the courts to try offences of murder and manslaughter committed as war crimes in Germany or German-occupied territory during the Second World War.

The Government had considered what form such legislation might take. In particular, it had looked at the evidential and procedural recommendations made by the inquiry.

"There is only one of the inquiry's ancillary recommendations which would, if accepted, break new ground and that one is the suggestion that documentary evidence from foreign archives should be admissible in evidence if the source of the evidence was authenticated by the archivist."

That would involve new legislation. It would not be right to take that step for war crimes alone and the Government did not propose to do so.

All the other proposals of the inquiry either required no change to existing law or were consistent with steps already approved.

Parliament had already accepted that live television evidence was permissible, principally for serious and complex

fraud trials. It would not be sensible to limit its application by excluding the most serious of all cases, those involving the taking of human life.

"We therefore intend to bring section 32 (of the Criminal Justice Act) into effect in respect of murder, manslaughter and serious and complex fraud. But section 32 does not apply to Scotland and, to extend the power to Scotland, an amendment has been tabled in the House of Lords to the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Bill."

The inquiry had also recommended that it should be possible for evidence to be used in war crimes trials to be taken on commission in the country where the witnesses were living and that video recordings of evidence taken in that way, or in response to a letter of request issued by a court in this country to an overseas authority, should be admissible.

There was no need to legislate to achieve that because it was already provided for in the Criminal Justice Act.

Neither was further action required on the question of video recordings so far as the law related to England and Wales, but it was unclear whether such evidence would be admissible under Scottish law. That would be put right by amendment of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Bill.

Mr Ian Gow (Eastbourne, C) asked why the Home Secretary had not discussed the bringing of alleged German war criminals to justice with the Attorney General and the chief prosecuting officer of the time, Lord Shawcross. He had done so, Lord Shawcross would have offered advice diametrically opposed to the advice Mr Waddington had given to MPs.

Mr Waddington said he had the greatest respect for Lord Shawcross, but it was for the Government to make difficult

His fundamental view of this matter had been expressed by Winston Churchill who, in the House on October 28, 1948, had proposed "to draw the sponge across the crimes and horrors of the past - hard as that may be - and look for the sake of justice."

Mr Julian Amery (Brighton, Pavilion, C) said that he was deeply moved by the remarkable letter of Lord Shawcross to The Times (Saturday, March 17). Lord Shawcross wrote about how by 1948 the House had become sickened by the war crime trials, and care to the conclusion that it should no longer be responsible for investigating war crime trials in Germany.

decisions. It could not shuffle them off.

He planned to establish a central policing unit to pick up and continue the investigation work begun by the inquiry. This unit would be operationally responsible to the Metropolitan Police Commissioner and, at first, consist of nine police officers plus supporting staff. As the work developed it might be necessary to review its size.

The task should be funded entirely by central government, it would not be under the control of government direction. Both these making innovations and prosecutions must be able to call upon the expert assistance of historians and linguists.

It would not be right to proceed with this unit until the Bill had received Royal Assent. That would enable MPs to advise the Government on what sort of unit they thought it should be, how it should operate and what sort of liaison it might have with other units overseas.

It was so long since the war, and it was the instinctive wish of most people to get on with their lives in peace and not rake over the past.

But sometimes one is brought face to face with facts that cannot be buried, with deeds so terrible that they cannot be forgotten. And as long as one of those responsible survives, the world will cry out for justice."

He still retained the gravest reservations about what should, by any standards, be described as innovations to the Scottish law, which were now being proposed.

He was concerned about changes in the law designed to help specific convictions. It seemed to him that, however trivial or marginal the changes might be, that would set undesirable precedents. It seemed a dubious way of proceeding.

The changes were being attached to a Bill dealing with changes in higher law and the rights of Scottish solicitors to have an audience in minor courts. It was undesirable to introduce the changes in this way.

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The amendment was rejected by 126 votes to 110 - Government majority, 16.

Leading article, page 15

A memory of Belsen

Mr James Molynex, leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, intervening in the debate, said that as an RAF man he had been sent to Belsen as escort to a medical team 24 hours after that concentration camp was liberated. The memory that haunted him was of a Roman Catholic priest celebrating Mass at a makeshift altar. He had been holding the elements in one hand, and something had struck Mr Molynex as peculiar about the manner in which he was standing. The priest was having to support himself on the altar with his other hand. The bodies of two of his fellow priests who had died the day before were at his feet.

It was not only Jews who had suffered, and it was important to try to educate people not to look on this as a racist issue, although Jewish people suffered more than any others.

of all our salvation to the future".

However, the crimes involved did seem to him to be so monstrous that they could not possibly be subject to any statute of limitations.

They had to consider why they might wish to proceed with prosecutions, possible convictions and eventual punishment.

Had they meant to date all war crimes, the Government would have chosen, and the House would have supported, a general rather than a specific Bill.

Clearly, MPs were not looking either, for a way to ensure that such criminals did not repeat their offences.

Retribution was far too near to vengeance to be a good reason for introducing this Bill. MPs were, therefore, left with one possible justification: demonstration of justice, or abiding revelation of the commission and premeditated slaughter of people and its relationship to a policy of genocide against the whole Jewish race.

"After some doubt and some difficulty, I have come to the conclusion that single justification, the demonstration of retribution, is enough to warrant the introduction of this Bill.

It was brought to the House of Commons by Mr Richard Luce, MP for the constituency of Scotland.

Mr Ray Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said that tonight they would vote with their consciences; the Bill raised moral principles.

His fundamental view of this matter had been expressed by Winston Churchill who, in the House on October 28, 1948, had proposed "to draw the sponge across the crimes and horrors of the past - hard as that may be - and look for the sake of justice."

He still retained the gravest reservations about what should, by any standards, be described as innovations to the Scottish law, which were now being proposed.

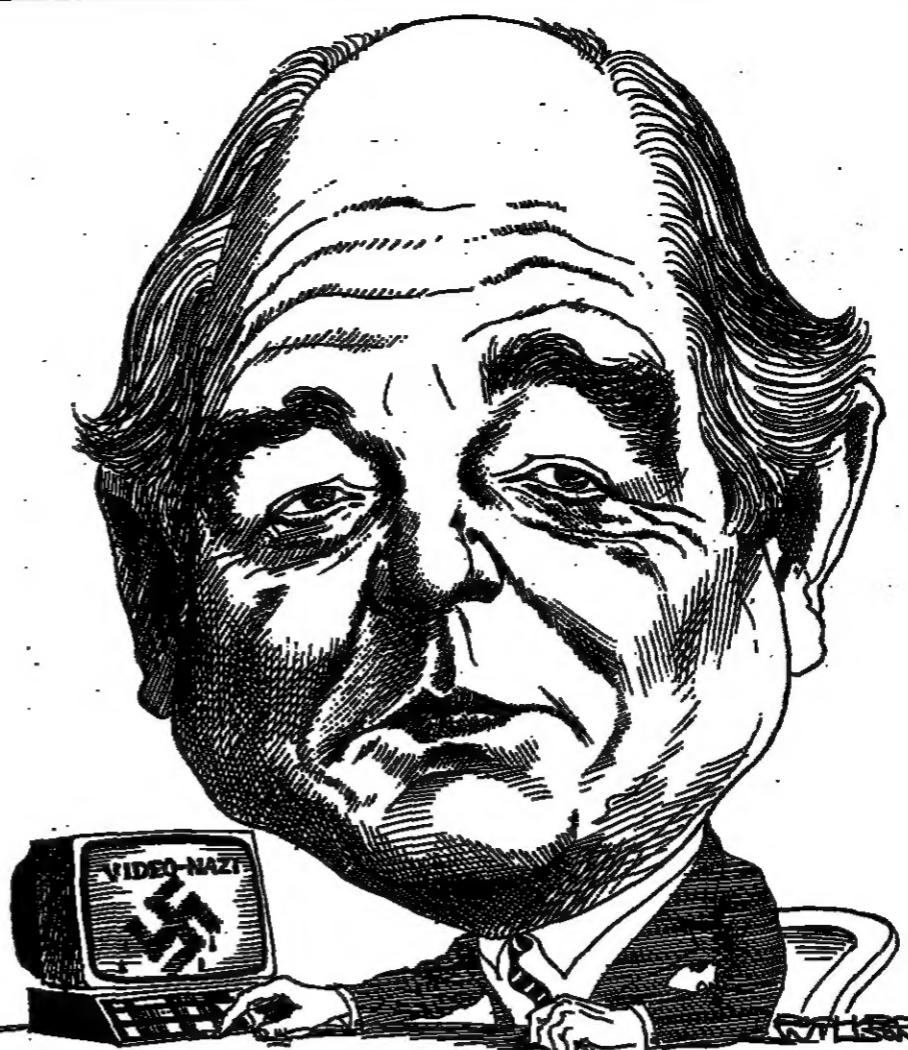
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Leading article, page 15



Gallery is cleared of students

Nine students were evicted from the public gallery of the House of Lords after repeated outbreaks of coughing interrupted the second day of the committee stage of the Education (Student Loans) Bill.

The Earl of Caithness, Paymaster General, meanwhile, told peers that he would look again at the need for safeguards forbidding the disclosure of information held manually by the Student Loans Company.

Computerized records were already covered by the provisions of the Data Protection Act. He was responding to concerns expressed during discussion of an amendment moved by Earl Russell (Lib Dem) urging protection against unauthorized disclosure or use of the information.

The amendment was rejected by 126 votes to 110 - Government majority, 16.

Floods response 'is inadequate'

WALES

authorities in a disaster normally paid 75 per cent of a council's costs. The Government had lifted the figure to 85 per cent.

The appeal he had made a few weeks ago to the furniture and carpet industry was producing results.

Mr Barry Jones, chief Opposition spokesman on Welsh affairs, said that the amount of money being provided by the Government and the system of compensation were insufficient.

The chief executive of Cymlyn Bay estimated that £3 million was needed.

Mr Walker said that no government had done more in such circumstances. He would discuss with local authorities their assessments of their needs when they were ready.

£57m in building grants for arts

The Government is providing £57 million in 1990-91 for the building and maintenance programme at the national museums and galleries sponsored by the Minister for the Arts, Mr Richard Luce, he announced in a Commons written reply.

That provision would increase to £50 million next year and £54 million in 1992-93, he added. That was to bring the total provision for building and maintenance over the next three years to more than £180 million.

Workers' pay 'too low'

MPs were fed up with the back of cheap labour in the tea room and dining rooms of the House of Commons, Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Workington, Lab) said at questions.

Catering staff complained that they were underpaid, but the relevant department defended a balance of £2 million. It was now necessary for a review of their wages, he said during questions to the House of Commons Commission.

Mr Alan Beith (Berwick-upon-Tweed, Lib Dem), for the commission, said that the House never employed cheap labour. Pay was linked to Civil Service pay.

Rates paper promised

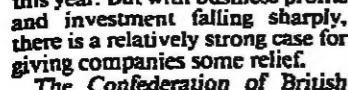
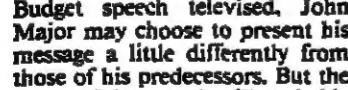
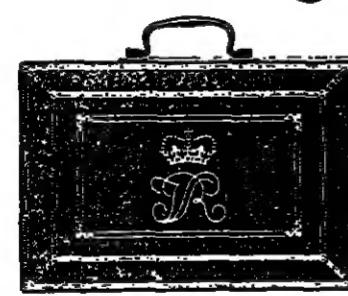
The Government is to publish a document showing what the increase in domestic rates would have been had that system been retained instead of the new community charge. Mr Christopher Chope, Under Secretary of State for Environment, said in a written reply.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Health; Prime Minister; The Budget; Lords (2.30): Human Fertilization and Embryology Bill, third reading; Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Bill, committee, first day.

Major's alternatives

How will the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Budget — his first, and the first to be televised — affect you? Rodney Lord looks at the options open to him and offers (right) a chart on which you can fill in the changes as they are announced in the House



ECONOMIC FORECASTS

SPENDING TAXES

PERSONAL TAX BREAKS

BUSINESS TAXES

POPULAR CAPITALISM

ECONOMIC FORECASTS

Economic growth, 1990

Last forecast: 1.25%

Budget forecast

5% 246-80 a week

7% 280-125

9% £125-175

10.45% Over £175

Budget forecast

Budget surplus, 1990-91

Current year:

less than £12.5bn

Budget forecast

INCOME TAX

Oil price 1990

Assumption for 1989:

about \$18 a barrel

Budget forecast

Money targets 1990-91

Current year:

+1% to 5% (MO)

Budget target

Others:

SPENDING TAXES

Gallon of petrol (leaded)

Inflation adjustment: up 8.2p

Budget change

Gallon of petrol (unleaded)

Inflation adjustment: up 7.1p

Budget change

Pint of beer

Inflation adjustment: up 1.7p

Budget change

Bottle of whisky

Inflation adjustment: up 42p

Budget change

Car licence

Inflation adjustment: up £7.70

Budget change

Other duties

VAT changes

BUSINESS TAXES

Corporation tax



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Which is why we've developed our Ultra Sound Diagnostic Scanner to offer peace of mind to prospective parents.

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diagnoses heart and other internal health problems. But at Toshiba we don't just monitor what's going on inside you; we also keep a watch on what's going on around you.

The Toshiba radar rainfall monitoring system is designed to alert local governments to unexpectedly heavy rainfall, so it gives plenty

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Fifteen
ANC s
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battle in

US spac

Fifteen dead after ANC supporters raid Zulu village

From Fred Bridgland, Johannesburg

Fifteen people were killed and nine critically injured in a Zulu attack by armed African National Congress supporters on the kraal of a chief loyal to the Zulu leader, Chief Gantsi Buthelezi.

The attack is a severe setback to efforts by Chief Buthelezi and Mr Nelson Mandela, the ANC Vice-President, to end the violence in Natal Province which has claimed at least 3,000 lives in the last two years.

To make matters worse, the ANC's internal leader, Mr Walter Sisulu, has been accused by Chief Buthelezi, leader of the powerful Zulu Inkatha movement, of insulting the whole Zulu nation. It comes at a time when tensions are high not only in Natal, the Zulu heartland, but between Zulus and other black people in the townships around the factories and gold mines of Johannesburg.

The cause of Chief Buthelezi's anger with Mr Sisulu is a letter the latter sent to King Goodwill Zwelithini of the Zulu nation, saying he is willing to hold peace talks with him as soon as possible, provided the meeting is not scheduled for the Ulundi, seat of the KwaZulu homeland legislative assembly. Chief Buthelezi, Chief Minister of KwaZulu, attacked Mr Sisulu in the assembly yesterday for

the "temerity" of his sight to the whole Zulu nation. "In what way is he contributing to peace if he talks this way to our people?" Chief Buthelezi asked.

Chief Buthelezi returned on Sunday from a visit to Zambia where President Kaunda endorsed him as a player in the forthcoming negotiations to devise a new South African constitution which will enfranchise all the country's citizens.

Most ANC supporters regard Chief Buthelezi as a "sell-out" who worked within the ethnic homeland system while refusing to accept full independence.

Chief Buthelezi, who has yet to comment on the latest violence, issued a statement yesterday calling on the ANC to lay down their arms "and throw in their weight with the rest of South Africa, which now wants to work towards a multi-party democracy".

Police in Pretoria said the attack on the chief's kraal, at Njokokazi, a KwaZulu village 30 miles inland from Durban, took place on Sunday evening. The assailants were supporters of the United Democratic Front, the internal wing of the ANC before the ban on the latter was lifted seven weeks ago.

"A large group arrived at the kraal and opened fire with

a variety of weapons, including an AK-47 rifle," a police spokesman, Major Reg Crewe, said. "Two hand grenades were hurled into the kraal. As the occupants fled they were gunned down. They were then hacked and stabbed as well."

Two of the dead were special constables posted to guard the pro-Inkatha chief. Major Crewe said the death toll was expected to rise because of the critical condition of the injured, who include a third constable.

At least five other people were killed in Inkatha-ANC clashes over the weekend, including one man who was hacked to death and then set alight after being doused with petrol.

Violence also continued in several townships around Johannesburg.

Three people died in a simmering ideological war at Bekkersdal, a township about 25 miles south-west of the metropolis between ANC followers and adherents of the Black Consciousness movement.

A Black Consciousness spokesman said that his people had been killed by members of the Bekkersdal Youth Congress, a UDF-ANC affiliate, wielding guns, spades and garden forks. A fourth victim was blinded in the attack.

Rebels in Ethiopia force regime's hand



Scorched earth: An Eritrean People's Liberation Front rebel strolling among bundles of food relief still smouldering three weeks after the battle for Massawa. The bags of wheat, donated by the European Community, were used as fortification sandbags by defending Ethiopian government troops.

Mengistu to end socialist domination

By Our Foreign Staff

President Mengistu of Ethiopia, deemed the world's poorest country with a per capita annual income of \$31 (256), has signalled the end of socialist domination in the country.

Faced with economic collapse, civil war and the prospect of no further substantial assistance from fellow socialist nations, he told Canadian visitors at the weekend that a multi-party system would be acceptable. Defeats at the hands of rebels in Tigre and Eritrea have clearly forced the hand of what once was Africa's most rigidly Marxist-Leninist regime.

The plans for a multi-party system come after President Mengistu's announcement that private enterprise will have a role in the economy and that foreign investment must be sought. Reviewing 15 years of social

ism in the country, he said: "As seen from all angles, the transition to the socialist system... has proved difficult and unattainable."

With the threat of starvation again stalking the land, the most important reforms will come in agriculture, where the annual food deficit is estimated at 250,000 tonnes. Although land will remain the property of the state, individual use will be permitted by law, as will the employment of labour by peasants. They will also be able to transfer their title to land to their heirs.

Other moves recently announced include: Basing state enterprises on profitability, competition and productivity; and privatizing or closing those which fail; allowing the private sector to compete in all areas of business; tax reform; permission for

developers to build, rent and sell houses, and the giving of government-owned land to private firms for the building of hotels.

A communiqué issued by the official news agency appealed to confirm the President's move to create a multi-party system in addition to reorganizing the ruling Workers' Party of Ethiopia (WPE) as a non-ideological national party.

Referring to a resolution of the party's Central Committee adopting the reforms, the news agency said: "There is nothing in the relevant item of the resolution... which states that opposition groups are required to join or work under the WPE which... is to be reconstructed under a new name."

Since President Mengistu announced the WPE's abandonment of Soviet-style Marxism-Leninism,

prominent symbols of the party's rejected ideology have begun to disappear from the streets of Addis Ababa, the capital. First to go was a poster displaying the faces of Marx, Engels and Lenin in Revolution Square, the site of mass rallies and military parades. A poster of the President leading enthusiastic workers and peasants under a red banner and the Ethiopian flag continues, however, to dominate the square.

Elsewhere, discreet groups of workers have been going round by night, painting out hammer-and-sickle signs and socialist slogans on garish banners and displays spanning the streets of the capital.

Students have splashed green paint over a bust of Karl Marx outside Addis Ababa University and painted a black "X" on the plinth underneath.

'Abuses' by Israel attacked

Jerusalem — Mr Jimmy Carter, the former US President, who is on a peace-making mission in the Middle East, yesterday attacked the Israeli authorities for alleged violations of human rights in the occupied territories (Richard Owen writes).

After talks with the Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem, Mr Carter said: "What we are talking about here is an authoritarian government which is in charge in the territories but is depriving people under its control of their basic human rights."

Mr Carter, who met Israeli leaders on Sunday and leading Palestinian figures yesterday, travels on to Tunis today for talks with Mr Yassir Arafat, the PLO leader.

Pipe blamed for hotel fire

Cairo — An Egyptian government report says the fire at the Helipolis Sheraton Hotel here earlier this month in which 17 people, including four Britons, were killed, was caused by a spark from a *hookah*, or bubble-bubble pipe (Christopher Walker writes). The findings contradict suggestions that the blaze may have been started by Islamic fundamentalists.

India raises defence cash

Delhi — India has increased its defence budget by around 10 per cent (Coomi Kapoor writes). Mr Madhu Dandavate, the Defence Minister, told Parliament the increased spending was "the direct result of the situation on our borders", a reference to recent violence in Kashmir and Punjab.

Li to ease austerity policy as output falls

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

When Premier Li Peng opens the annual session of parliament, or National People's Congress, today he will call for a partial roll-back of the austerity programme which he advocated, but which has brought China's industrial production to near standstill.

Mr Li's Government "looks set to relax its tight hold on the money supply and boost consumer confidence in bid to shore up plummeting industrial production", according to the official *China Daily*.

China's austerity programme was conceived in September 1988, after a summer of bank runs and panic buying. Now government economists are conceding that control of the money supply has gone too far, and are advocating a U-turn. Mr Li is expected to urge a cut in interest rates on bank deposits, to encourage people to control their spending.

The battle is fuelled by personal ambition to be best placed to step into President Mitterrand's shoes if and when, in the middle distance, he should step down.

M Mitterrand, aged 71, was elected for a second term in 1988. Since then those who believe they can see the writing on the wall have been prematurely jockeying for position — even to the point of ridiculing the Socialist Party.

Mrs Marcos is charged with conspiring to invest \$168 million (£104 million) in "stolen funds" in hidden bank accounts and secret property holdings, including four prestigious buildings in Manhattan. If convicted, she faces 20 years in jail.

Alongside her in the dock will be Mr Adnan Khashoggi, the Saudi Arabian wheeler-dealer. Prosecutors say Mr Khashoggi, once married to a Briton, helped the Marcoses conceal their interest in certain properties. He faces a possible sentence of 10 years jail.

Those involved have until tonight to come up with an acceptable compromise before electing a new General Secretary and party executive tomorrow. M Pierre Mauroy, the present General Secretary, has said he will only stand again if he has general support.

Industrial growth in January

was down 6.1 per cent

compared with January, 1989.

Other elements of the austerity policy — like freezing prices from state control — do not seem to be up for discussion. Price reform is closely associated with the disgraced ex-General Secretary Zhao Ziyang, and has become a dirty word since he was ousted in June. Western analysts do not see the new measures solving the underlying problems.

People were lured into depositing their money by index-linked interest. Stockpiles of finished goods grew 80 per cent by the end of last year, and debt defaults among enterprises are now running as high as 110 billion yuan (214 billion).

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It is not only Mr Zhao's

adventurous economic poli-

cies which will be absent from

this year's National People's

Congress. Mr Zhao himself,

although officially still a depu-

ty, has asked for leave and will not attend, according to a cou-

terpiece spokesman.

As expected, senior leader

Mr Deng Xiaoping will resign

from his post as chairman of

the State Military Com-

mission. In November, Mr

Deng gave up his post as

chairman of the far more

important Party Military

Commission, handing over to

his chosen successor Mr Jiang

Zemin, the General Secretary.

Mr Wan Li, the Standing

Committee's chairman, has

called for deputies to "air

views freely in full exercise of

democracy". But it is unlikely

that disagreements at the con-

gress will be made public, and

most sessions of the two-week

congress are closed.

Speculation that Mr Li

might be ousted has been

effectively silenced by the

declaration that there will be

no personnel changes. It is be-

lieved that some leaders fa-

voured ditching the widely-

loathed Premier as a scapegoat

for the army action last June.

It has apparently been de-

cided, however, that such a

move would admit that the

crackdown was wrong, and

thus implicate the entire

government.

In an unusually critical

comment for the official press,

the *China Daily* quoted

economists as saying: "The

industrial growth rate would

not have dropped to an his-

toric low if the Government had

taken action in the third

quarter of last year."

Other elements of the austere

policy — like freezing prices

from state control — do not

THE EAST GERMAN ELECTION

IMPLICATIONS FOR MONETARY UNION

Delors presses Bonn to consult EC before currency changes

From Michael Binyon
Brussels

M Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, warned West Germany yesterday that it would have to consult its Community partners before pressing ahead with monetary union with East Germany.

He also called on Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, to make a political gesture to reassure the EC of his continued commitment to European integration. He said his message to him after the Christian Democrats' victory in East Germany was: "Congratulations, but don't forget Europe."

Speaking on French radio, M Delors

said the Chancellor did not have a free hand in determining the reunification process. Monetary union would not be easy, and West Germany would have to negotiate with its partners on East German adhesion to the Community.

"Some time will be necessary to change the legislative system, establish a true fiscal system, markets, a state budget and a banking and financial system in East Germany," he said. "This transition system cannot be completed without consultations and the agreement of the other 11 partners in the Community."

Herr Kohl will discuss all this with M Delors here on Friday. Hinting at the plain talking that might dominate the

encounter, M Delors said: "The difficult times have begun. We have to discuss this, not just to pour cold water on the Germans' joy, but simply because East Germany is a special case."

On Saturday M Delors will meet Herr Oskar Lafontaine, the Prime Minister of Saarland and Social Democratic candidate against Herr Kohl in December's general election. M Delors said his message for him was: "Patience, there is still work to be done."

He did not doubt Herr Kohl's commitment to Europe. But he added: "I see worry and frustration in other countries. And so Chancellor Kohl must make a political gesture showing or confirming the full engagement of the

Federal Republic in the building of Europe, and especially in the political union of Europe."

East Germany's entry into the EC would have to be treated like the accession of a new member. It was difficult to arrange its quick entry without a frontier and Bonn would have to discuss this with the other members.

The European Commission's German affairs unit will now begin intensified consultations with Bonn as the German monetary union talks start in earnest.

Mr Hennig Christensen, the budget commissioner and one of the five-man task force of commissioners, has presented a report which forecasts a growth rate of 0.05 per cent to the Community

as a result of reunification. It said there would be an improved trade balance between Germany and the EC, as the Federal Republic's surplus would be reduced and exports by other EC members to a unified Germany would increase.

The report will be submitted to a meeting of EC foreign ministers on April 21 and then to the summit meeting on April 28.

M Delors has forecast that EC expenditure in such fields as agriculture and regional policy would increase by up to £1.3 billion with East Germany's inclusion in the EC. The cost is still lower than admitting East Germany as a separate state.

Meanwhile, there was quiet jubilation at Nato over the East German election, which appeared to endorse a role under the treaty. Talks on the military status of East Germany are set to dominate the discussions between the four former wartime allies and the two Germanies, and Nato is being very careful not to prejudge their outcome.

The Western European Union, which groups seven of the European Nato allies, is to hold an extraordinary two-day session on unification in Luxembourg, beginning on Thursday. Mr Krzysztof Skubiszewski, the Polish foreign minister, will also take part.

Cost of unity, page 29

THE WINNERS AND LOSERS

Kohl maps out new order in Europe

From Ian Murray, Bonn

Boosted by his personal triumph in the East German election campaign, Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, yesterday mapped out the future of a new peace order in Europe in which a united Germany was clearly meant to play a very important role.

In a keynote speech to a session on economic co-operation of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), he sought to reassure delegates from 35 nations that a united Germany would be a force for peace and stability in a changing world.

He looked ahead to a European federation which would follow Germany's example by seeking union where there was once division.

"Our political goal remains to hasten European integration as fast as possible," he said. The aim of opening up the EC's frontiers by the end of 1992 and of achieving economic and monetary union remained. The "growing together of the Germans" would actually give an added boost to growth inside the Community.

This idea was backed by Herr Helmut Haussmann, the West German Economics Minister, in his speech to the session. "We have a great chance to map out a future built on free markets. The future belongs to a European economic zone, binding together and governed by the rules of the market place."

Herr Kohl, encouraging delegates to the special session, said that the CSCE process had a special role to play in creating a new European peace order.

"We have the historic opportunity to change the history of Europe," Herr Kohl said confidently. "The European Confederation, of which President Mitterrand has already spoken, which all the states of our Continent jointly administer for exchanges, peace and security, can really happen — if we want it to."

The Chancellor's speech seemed to foreshadow the arrival of a united Germany at the world's top policy-making and negotiating tables.

Consolation for SPD in Bavaria

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

While licking the wounds inflicted on their sister party in East Germany yesterday, the West German Social Democrats (SPD) were able to draw some comfort from their results in the first round of the Bavarian local elections.

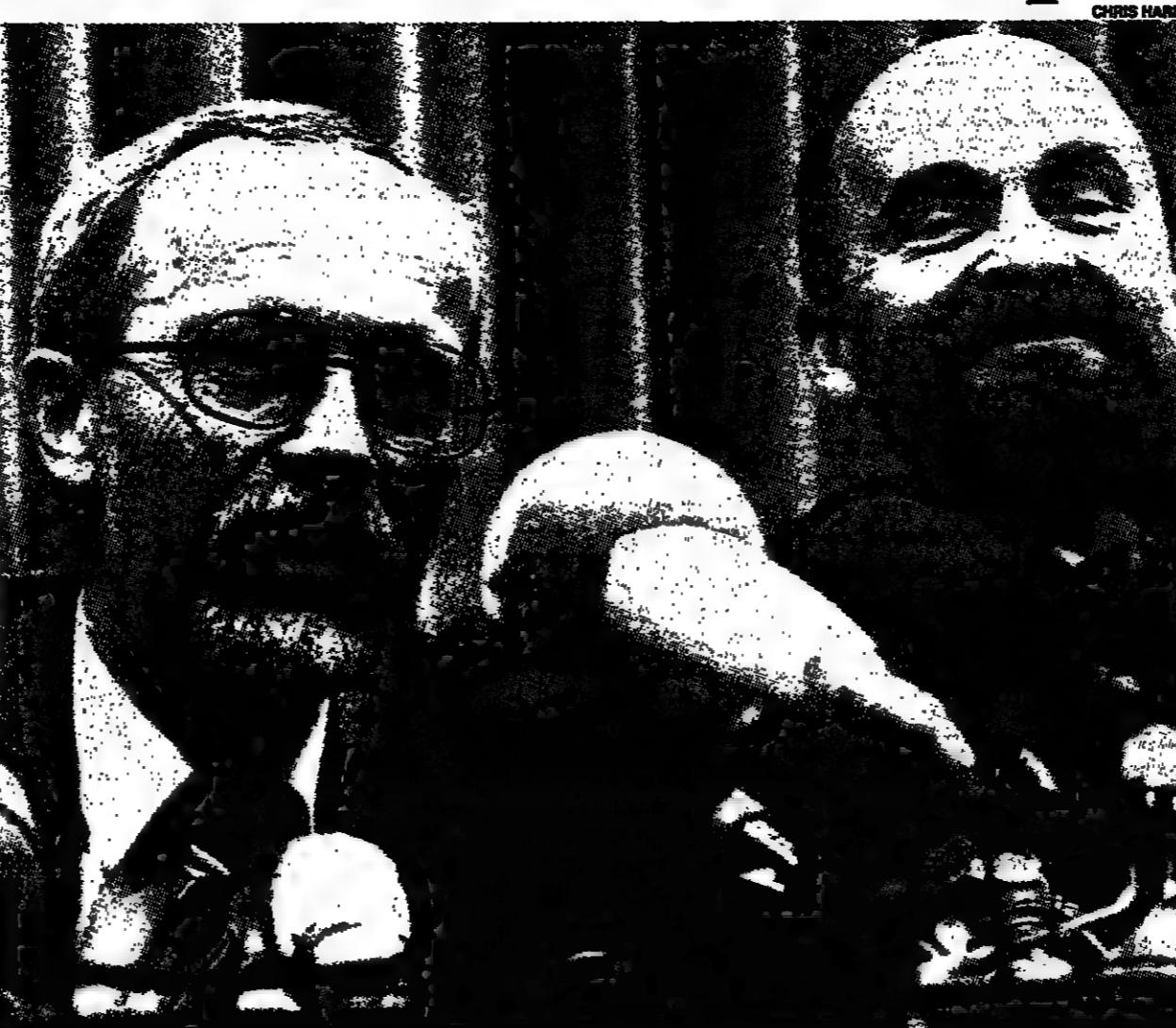
The campaign resulted in a turnout of 75 per cent of Bavaria's 8.5 million voters. The complicated proportional representation system, however, makes it impossible to judge party support accurately until after the second round on April 1.

Nevertheless the SPD managed to dent the traditional strength of the Christian Social Union (CSU), even in country areas where there is usually little support for the left. Herr Rudolf Schöfberger, the SPD's chairman in Bavaria, said "the absolute might of the CSU" was nearing its end. At the same time the radical right-wing Repub-

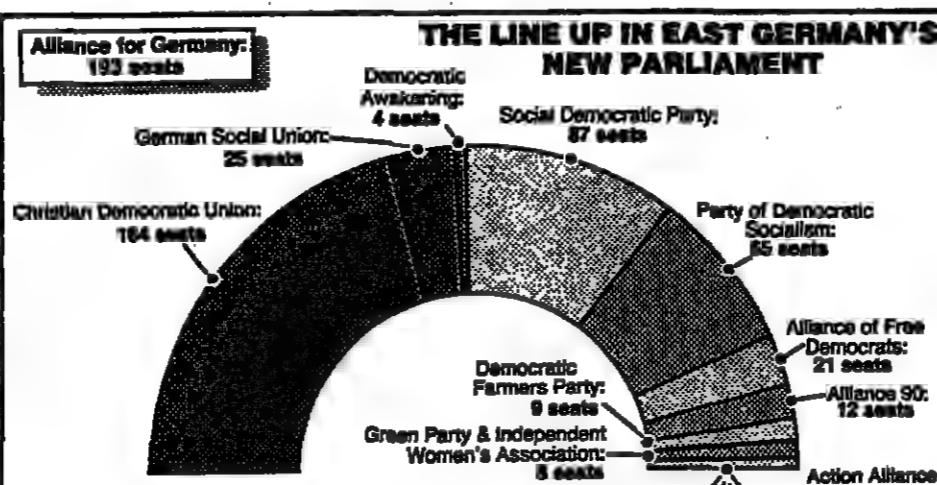
licans, while winning seats for the first time on some councils, failed to make the breakthrough needed to maintain their challenge to seats in the Bundestag elections next December. Their anonymous spokesman nevertheless put a brave face on the outcome, claiming that the Republicans had become the third strongest political force in Bavaria.

The CSU, relishing the success of the right in East Germany, remained unruffled. Herr Max Streibl, the Bavarian prime minister, said there was no reason to fear that the CSU would lose its majority during the Lander elections in October.

The SPD scored their most convincing win in Munich, where their candidate, Herr Georg Kronawitter, the present mayor, trounced his CSU rival, Herr Hans Klein, who is spokesman for the Bonn Government.



Herr Lothar de Maizière, left, and Herr Rainer Eppelmann, discussing their priorities at a press conference in East Berlin.



Party	Votes	%	Seats
Alliance for Germany (conservative coalition of):	5,524,647	48.14	193
Christian Democratic Union (CDU)	4,894,638	(40.91)	(154)
German Social Union (DSU)	724,780	(6.32)	(25)
Democratic Awakening (DA)	105,251	(0.92)	(4)
Social Democratic Party (SPD)	2,506,151	21.84	87
Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS) (communist)	1,873,656	16.33	65
Alliance of Free Democrats	606,283	5.28	21
(Liberal Alliance of German Forum Party (DFP), Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), and Free Democratic Party (FDP))	333,005	2.90	12
Alliance 90 (Left-wing coalition of New Forum, Democracy Now and Peace & Human Rights Initiative)	250,943	2.19	9
Democratic Farmers Party (DFD)	225,234	1.96	8
Green Party & Independent Women's League	44,435	0.39	2
National Democratic Party (NDPD)	58,088	0.33	1
Democratic German Women's League (DFD)	20,180	0.18	1
Action Alliance United Left (AVL)	14,573	0.13	1
Alternative Youth List (AJL)	10,699	0.09	
Christian League	8,836	0.08	
German Communist Party (KPD)	3,690	0.03	
European Federalist Party (EFP)	3,681	0.03	
Independent Social Democratic Party (USPD)	2,534	0.02	
Independent People's Party (IPP)	2,358	0.02	
German Bearddrinkers Union (DBU)	2,356	0.02	
Unity Now	374	0	
German Spartacist Workers Party (SPAD) (SA/Trotskyite)	373	0	
League of Socialist Workers (DSA/Trotskyite)	n/a	n/a	
Union of Work Groups for Workers Policy and Democracy (WAD)	n/a	n/a	
European Union of East Germany	n/a	n/a	

ELECTION IN WEST GERMANY

Saarland radical to challenge buoyant Chancellor

From Ian Murray
Bonn

Herr Oskar Lafontaine bravely agreed yesterday to stand against a supremely confident Herr Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, as the leading Social Democratic candidate in the West German general election next December.

Flushed with the success in Sunday's election of the East German Alliance he formed and inspired, Herr Kohl yesterday was already thinking well beyond his contest with the radical Saarland Prime Minister.

Almost taking the December result for granted, he seemed certain that he would realize his ambition to be the first Chancellor of a reunited Ger-

many. The victory in East Germany by his Alliance, he announced after a happy strategy session of his Christian Democrats (CDU), would be followed by victory in the first elections of a united Germany. These would probably be held next year.

Herr Kohl said the "admirable" victory of the Alliance for Germany parties showed that the voters had already decided that reunification would lead to a structural alteration of the German political landscape. He said he would advise the Alliance leaders to include SPD representatives in their coalition Government in order to tackle the huge problems of East Germany.

Herr Lafontaine seemed even more aware of these problems than the

Chancellor, and he is clearly looking to them to destroy the CDU's strength between now and December. During the last week of the campaign he said, the Chancellor had given the impression that a vote for the CDU would be a vote for "the quick Deutschmark". People's expectations were now immensely high and there would be enormous disillusionment which would undermine the CDU's position.

Herr Lafontaine spoke of the need for a "cautious" transition period. Unlike Herr Kohl he did not support the idea of a one-for-one conversion rate for Ostmarks into Deutschmarks for savers. The consequences of that, he said, would fuel inflation and undermine the economy. He was sure,

too, that a rapid reunification process threatened to create unemployment.

"The Chancellor must either break his promises here or in East Germany," he said.

Herr Lafontaine has put his finger on the problem which Herr Kohl must solve — that of finding quick money to improve living standards in East Germany without raising taxes in the West. The acid test will be whether he can stop the flow of East Germans coming West.

Improving living standards will need money, which Herr Kohl had refused to give until a freely elected East German Government was in place, ready to create a free-market economy in which West German industry would be prepared to invest.

any country's right to self-determination, but in Germany's case it has to be conditional. Its allies agree — but not if the condition is German neutrality.

Within the Warsaw Pact and Nato there is general agreement that a new European security framework will have to be worked out in the transitional period, while the two military alliances still exist. Moscow says it cannot accept that a unified Germany in Nato would be in its security interests.

It was clear from the meeting of Warsaw Pact foreign ministers in Bonn last week that Moscow is not prepared to compromise until an agreement has been reached to reduce West Germany's military strength.

Moscow wants the Bundeswehr cut down to size and is obviously playing the neutrality card as a negotiating ploy to the end.

Moscow would like to be seen as a fervent supporter of the Soviet Union in expressing any objection to a united Germany remaining in Nato. The Western European Union, which groups seven of the European Nato allies, is to hold an extraordinary two-day session on unification in Luxembourg, beginning on Thursday. Mr Krzysztof Skubiszewski, the Polish foreign minister, will also take part.

EUROPEAN SECURITY

Nato membership is stumbling block

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

The Soviet Union faces a serious dilemma now that it has become clear that even its allies support the West's view that a unified Germany must be a member of Nato.

For the West, Germany's membership of Nato is not negotiable. Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, has made this clear to President Gorbachov, and Washington and London have echoed his message.

Mr Gorbachov, however, has a problem. He cannot accept this position without a fight, even though he must realize that it is the only practical solution during the reshaping of Europe.

• BONN: The next round of "two plus four" talks between the Germans and the Second World War Allies will take place in East Berlin, probably before the end of the month (Ian Murray writes). From now on the Soviet Union will be alone in expressing any objection to a united Germany remaining in Nato.

Moscow would like to be seen as a fervent supporter of the

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Worldwide net of art crime

The £130m haul from a Boston gallery has highlighted a growing worldwide problem, David Sapsted reports

The weekend's £130 million theft from the Gardner Museum in Boston sent a ripple of fear yesterday through an arts world already struggling to come to terms with the increasing involvement of international syndicates in such robberies.

In the past decade, the number of art thefts worldwide has tripled, while the clear-up and recovery rate has fallen from 22 per cent to just 5 per cent, according to the International Foundation of Art Research in New York.

"Arts thefts are becoming an enormous problem. I worry every time I leave the gallery at night," says Dr Christopher White, director of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

The extent of the problem was illustrated by Scotland Yard's decision last year to revive its arts and antiques squad. Dealers had been so concerned about its abolition that they offered to pay for its re-introduction themselves.

The annual value of the market in stolen works of art is put conservatively at a minimum of £250 million, although the figure is rendered meaningless because auction prices are constantly setting new records.

The thefts usually receive little publicity because the most common targets are lesser works. The market in both legitimate and stolen works is now so large that most pieces can be moved internationally through legal channels because dealers, museums and galleries are unable to keep track of what has or has not been stolen.

Even major works can slip through: a statue of Aphrodite from the 5th century BC which now graces the Getty Museum in Malibu, California, is believed by the Italians to have been stolen in Sicily and shipped in pieces by the

Mafia. The Gardner Museum theft falls into a quite different category, however. The haul, especially the Vermeer and two Rembrandts, is so well known that it would be impossible to sell openly. This raises the possibility of either a steal-to-order assignment for an obsessed, billionaire collector or (more likely, according to sources in Britain yesterday) an exercise in insurance extortion.

All the Boston works were insured and thieves operate on the principle that insurers would prefer to pay 10 per cent to have the paintings recovered rather than meet the full cost of the loss.

The idea of wealthy private collectors prepared to commission thefts is a popular scenario for novelists and movie-makers but it is almost impossible to prove.

Det Sgt Anthony Russell, a member of the arts and antiques squad at Scotland Yard, said: "If it was local criminals, they will realize straight away that these pictures are unsaleable. They are so well known. If it was a contract job, the police will be dealing with something quite different."

"Pictures can go underground for years. They would never appear on the open market because they would be recognized, so they are sold privately. They pass through various hands on the black market until they find a home with a fervent collector. When these people see a picture they want, they go after it, come what may. They want it for themselves and nothing else matters."

Nevertheless, Interpol, which coordinates the European-wide search for stolen works, believes that Zurich "gnomes" and South American drug barons could have their share of major works that have disappeared in recent years.

It is the increasing involvement

of crime syndicates that most bothers police. The French authorities, for example, still believe a gang with links to international criminals based in Japan carried out the theft of nine Impressionist masterpieces, including five Monets and a Renoir, from the Marmottan Museum in Paris five years ago.

Other robberies obviously had no buyer in mind. The remains of the £30 million-plus theft in 1986 from the collection of Sir Alfred Beit, in County Wicklow, in the Republic of Ireland, are still believed to be in Dublin. One man recently receiving a two-year sentence for trying to sell some of the pictures to a London art dealer.

A total of 17 paintings, including ones by Goya, Velazquez and Vermeer, were taken in that raid, but six were recovered soon afterwards and a seventh, by the 17th Century Dutch painter Gabriel Metsu, was found in Turkey last month. The attempted Turkish sale is being linked with the Ulster Volunteer Force, the North Ireland paramilitary organization.

Terrorists and their supporters have been behind other famous thefts. The record for the world's most stolen painting goes to Rembrandt's portrait of Jacob van Gheya, which disappeared from the Dulwich Picture Gallery in 1967, 1973, 1981 and for the very last time, one assumes, in 1983.

medium for messages when, in 1974, IRA sympathizers stole Vermeer's "The Guitar Player". It was eventually recovered in a London churchyard.

Motives for thefts have differed enormously. The unemployed truck driver convicted after the disappearance in 1961 of Goya's "Duke of Wellington" from the National Gallery (recovered four years later) said he did it to protest the government's decision not to give pensioners free television licences.

And in the most famous thief of them all, the Italian carpenter who stole Leonardo's Mona Lisa from the Louvre in 1911, said when he was caught that it was in revenge for Napoleon's rape of Italian art treasures. It later transpired that a South American businessman had sold six high-class reproductions of the work while it was missing to unscrupulous American collectors.

The record for the world's most stolen painting goes to Rembrandt's portrait of Jacob van Gheya, which disappeared from the Dulwich Picture Gallery in 1967, 1973, 1981 and for the very last time, one assumes, in 1983.

Vermeer's "The Concert" appears to have been the real prize of the world's largest art theft, the £130 million robbery from the Gardner Museum in Boston. Fewer than 40 Vermeers are known to exist, and none of them is in private hands, except for one in the Queen's collection. But the 17th-century Dutch master has been the target of many thefts.

His "The Guitar Player" was stolen from Kenwood House, London, in 1974 but recovered, and "The Love-Letter" was cut out of its frame while on loan in Belgium from Amsterdam.

"Woman Writing a Letter With a Maid Servant" was stolen twice from Russborough House, the Irish country seat of Sir Alfred Beit, the first time in 1974 by the IRA, and after its recovery again in 1986. It has been missing ever since.

"The Concert", taken from Boston, is one of Vermeer's finest and best-preserved works. Mr Franklin Robinson, an expert on

Dutch paintings and director of the Museum of Art at the Rhode Island School of Design, said: "It is not just a Vermeer; it's a very good Vermeer from the 1660s, the high point of his work. No matter how many hundreds of millions you have got you cannot buy a Vermeer, so you commission someone to steal one."

The thieves, who posed as police and bound and gagged security guards at the museum before dawn on Sunday, appeared to have a shopping list topped by the work, according to Mr Robinson.

The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum is housed in a four-storey turn-of-the-century mansion, built in the style of a 15th-century Venetian palace. It displays 290 paintings and 2,000 other works collected by Mrs Gardner, an eccentric Boston socialite who died in 1924, and is considered one of the best small collections in America.

The stolen works were taken from two rooms on the second floor, including the museum's

Dutch room, and from a first-floor gallery. The thieves bypassed the Italian works for which the collection is best known, including a Titian called "Rape of Europa" which has been called "arguably the greatest painting in America".

"The Concert" was acquired by Mrs Gardner at auction in Paris for \$6,000 (£3,700), using her favourite secret bidding technique of dropping a handkerchief.

• The works stolen along with "The Concert" were:

"A Lady and A Gentleman in Black", "The Storm on the Sea of Galilee", and a self-portrait by Rembrandt. "Landscape with an Obelisk", by Govard Flinck, another 17th-century Dutchman. "La Sortie du Pesage", "Cortège aux Environs de Florence", "Three Mounted Jockeys", "Program for an Artistic Soirée", and another, less complete work by Edgar Degas. "Chez Tortoni", by Edouard Manet. A Chinese bronze beaker from the Shang Dynasty, 1,200-1,100 BC.

James Bone



THIEVES WITH A £130 MILLION SHOPPING LIST



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TIMES DIARY

ALAN HAMILTON

Port Harcourt

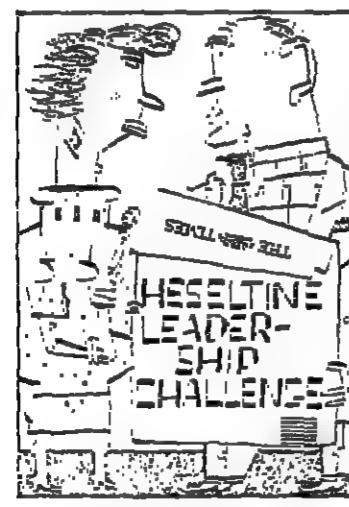
This column being unavoidably detained in Nigeria, we shall briefly consider that country's proposal to return itself to full civilian rule by 1992, which I trust will end any attempts to have its ex-ministers smuggled out of Stansted Airport in boxes. President Ibrahim Babangida, who took power in the 1985 military coup and who has been a behind-the-scenes string-puller in every coup since General Gowon was toppled in 1975, is taking the transition seriously. Next week those eligible among the country's burgeoning 120 million population will be able to register, if they wish, as members of one of the two political parties Babangida has created (he banned the original 13 political groupings which applied to become parties, on the grounds that they were merely old wine in new bottles). What Margaret and Neil, and undoubtedly Paddy, would envy is that he has provided funds for each of the two parties to open an office in each of the 480 constituencies staffed by civil servants, to act as recruiting centres.

Despite his military background, many Nigerians regard Babangida as the best politician they have ever had. "He is a clever general," runs the oft-heard remark. "He keeps the troops busy even when there isn't a war." The cleverest thing of all is that he has done nothing to dispel the ill-founded rumour that parents will not be able to send their children to school unless they join one or other party. No wonder Tass news agency has appointed a professor of constitutional law as its correspondent in Lagos to observe how it's done.

Offended was the government here by some of the wilder excesses of conspicuous consumption during Nigeria's oil-boom years of the 1970s that it banned, among other delights, champagne. The ban remains, but conspicuous consumers are not so easily deterred. Much is smuggled over the border from Benin, and an ersatz local variety is produced from kola nuts. It is passable, but much too sweet, rather like that English apple-based substance we knew as Pomagene. Being one of the world's largest producers of cocoa, Nigeria is also trying to make a few nairas by turning some of it, improbably, into wine. The faint chocolate bouquet is almost as off-putting as one of the leading brand names of dry white: Hammattan is a hot dusty wind that blows from the Sahara and simultaneously chokes the throat, stings the eyes and blurs the view.

Offend the admonition beside the no-smoking signs on Lagos buses that "Preaching is prohibited". I gather that it preduces Mrs Thatcher's visit.

BARRY FANTONI



"Mythinks he doth protest too little..."

Nigeria's foul civil war is a distant memory, but the secessionist Biafran leader, Lt-Col Emeka Ojukwu, is still alive and well and living in Lagos. He retired from active politics after standing for the federal senate in 1983 and losing. In common with all other former holders of political office — he was governor of the Eastern Region before attempting to break away — he is banned from standing for the new order of the third republic. But there is life in the old rebel yet. Like all retired politicians, he is writing his memoirs — and, although he is well in his fifties, he was recently photographed in the close company of last year's exceedingly pretty Miss Nigeria, who was not even born when the Biafran war began in 1967.

Being trapped in a Lagos traffic jam is a major hazard of Nigerian life. Hibernant vendors who live on the central reservation descend on the imprisoned motorists and thrust their wares with indefatigable persistence through the car windows. During one trying 45-minute journey across town, this column was implored to purchase a television aerial, a doormat, three bunches of bananas, several shirts and T-shirts, a set of car-mirrors, an umbrella, numerous bags of nuts, a telephone, two ironing-boards, a pocket calculator, an inflatable globe, a Japanese microwave oven, and one dead chicken with its feathers on.

As of this morning, more precisely as of this dawn, there is a new noise to plague the shallow sleeper. Now, at any rate, to me.

I have, over the subsoil years, grown accustomed to most of the sights and sounds and grunts and moans and squeaks and mutterings that rise from the no-man's land between sleep and waking, before the very light arcs upwards from the unscrupulous brain to identify their various sources and claim the urban heart ever on the *qui vive* for Jeremy and footfall.

I have been nudged from dreams by joists creaking confidentially to one another, and doors unlatching themselves and radiators tuning up, and sashes rattling irritably at the gate, and I have semi-consciously ticked the noise off the list and slid back, reassured, into sleep. I have heard the frig wake and joggle loose

Few governments have faced such a battery of unfavourable opinion polls as Mrs Thatcher's team faces now. If the current figures in Mid-Staffordshire are repeated on Thursday, Labour will sweep away a Conservative majority of 14,654 to emerge with a majority of 13,000 or more. This would represent the biggest net election swing from Tory to Labour since Fulham East in October 1933.

The swing of 13 per cent required for a bare Labour majority in Mid-Staffs is considerably more than the 8.1 per cent swing which Labour needs to win the next general election. And no government has ever recovered from a 20 per cent deficit in the national polls to win outright the subsequent general election. The national polls of present voting intentions at the next election show Labour with a 20.5 per cent lead, but Tories scratching for crumbs of comfort can find some.

Labour won the Fulham by-election in 1986 on a swing sufficient to give it victory at the next election if repeated nationally, only to see Mrs Thatcher win in 1987 with a majority of 100. The Tories' share of the vote at Warrington, Croydon

and Crosby fell by more than 20 per cent in the early 1980s as the SDP/Liberal Alliance took off, yet they won the next two general elections with ease.

As for the national poll standings, the Tories' current low point in this Parliament — 34 per cent — compares favourably with the lows of 31 per cent in the 1983-87 Parliament and only 23 per cent in the 1979-83 Parliament. However, in those years, the votes were shared between three effective parties, not two.

Certainly with today's highly volatile electorate, all governments must expect violent swings against them in mid-term. Furthermore, arithmetically, Labour's task remains daunting. Mr Kinnock's party needs an election-time swing of 8.1 per cent to move into government. The biggest swing achieved by any party in post-war years is 5 per cent, and the biggest previously achieved by Labour is 3 per cent.

The current poll ratings derive not from Labour's popularity, but from the unpopularity of the Government. At the last election, Labour finished in second place to the Conservatives in only 152 seats, while candidates from the Alliance were second in

226. If a desire to be rid of the Conservatives is the driving power behind many votes at the next election, it is questionable whether those in constituencies where Labour came third will identify the Labour candidate as the one to beat the Tory.

The Liberal Democrats are making no impact in national polls at the moment, but as the council election results demonstrated last year, they have a strong base in local government to which they have been able to retreat. That was what ensured Labour's failure to make a real breakthrough in the South and Midlands in last year's elections, and the unnoticed story of the Mid-Staffs by-election polls is that the Liberal Democrats have seen off the Greens to emerge again in a clear third place.

No one believes that Labour's lead will continue to be so great, and as it is reduced, other factors will come into play to complicate the figures. The effect of a televised Parliament may be to help incumbents, MPs, particularly those in minor parties, against their challengers. And whereas in the 1950s a 1 per cent swing from Conservative to Labour was enough to see 18 seats change hands, today it would be only 10.

Whether or not Labour can win the next election is one question; another is whether the Conservatives will lose it. What matters is whether Labour can achieve the 4.6 per cent swing from Conservative to Labour required to cause a loss of 52 Conservative seats and so of Mrs Thatcher's majority. What everybody seems to be forgetting, partly because we no longer have a strong force in the political centre talking about winning the balance of power, is that the odds are at present that we are heading towards a hung parliament. Virtually anything between a 3 per cent Conser-

vative lead in the polls and a 4 per cent Labour lead is likely to deliver a hung parliament.

How the parties would behave in such a situation will soon be the subject of anguished debate. For the moment we know that Mr Kinnock will insist on trying to govern with a minority, defying others to vote him down and stage another election, rather than doing a deal with the Liberal Democrats on proportional representation. But with the PR tide running strongly in Labour's ranks, second thoughts could be forced upon him.

We know that Paddy Ashdown's Liberal Democrats would not do a deal to sustain in power a Tory government still led by Mrs Thatcher, but they have not ruled out co-operation with either major party on the right terms. We could see the Ulster Unionists gaining the whip hand over the future of the Anglo-Irish Agreement if their co-operation became vital to the maintenance of a Conservative government. And what would be the price of Scottish and Welsh Nationalist support? As the question of a hung parliament becomes live and the discussions begin, such complications may increase the reluctance to let go the hand of nurse.

Robin Oakley sees Labour still having to struggle for a majority

Hanging in the balance

Labour takes much comfort from the achievement of 1964, when a similar Tory majority of around 100 was overturned. But at the start of that Parliament in 1959, Labour had 258 seats in a smaller House of Commons of 630 and needed to capture only 58 for victory. At the 1987 general election, Labour had only 229 seats to the Conservatives' 376 in a Parliament of 650 (with 45 representatives from other parties). To win an overall majority next time, it must take at least 93 seats from the Tories and four from the Liberal Democrats. That means winning not only marginal seats, but Tory strongholds in Home Counties suburbs.

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Whether or not Labour can

win the next election is one

question; another is whether the

Conservatives will lose it. What

matters is whether Labour can

achieve the 4.6 per cent swing

from Conservative to Labour

required to cause a loss of 52

Conservative seats and so of Mrs

Thatcher's majority. What

everybody seems to be forget-

ting, partly because we no longer

have a strong force in the

political centre talking about

winning the balance of power,

is that the odds are at present

that we are heading towards a

hung parliament. Virtually any-

thing between a 3 per cent Con-

servative lead in the polls and a

4 per cent Labour lead is likely

to deliver a hung parliament.

We know that Paddy Ash-

down's Liberal Democra-

ts would not do a deal to sus-

tain in power a Tory govern-

ment still led by Mrs Thatch-

er. They have not ruled out

co-operation with either major

party on the right terms. We

could see the Ulster Unionists

gaining the whip hand over the

future of the Anglo-Irish Agree-

ment if their co-operation be-

came vital to the maintenance

of a Conservative government.

We know that what would be

the price of Scottish and Welsh

Nationalist support? As the

question of a hung parliament

becomes live and the discus-

sions begin, such complications

could be forced upon him.

We know that what would be

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A KIND OF WILD JUSTICE

No episode in modern history was so infamous as the Nazi campaign of genocide, and civilization itself must for ever turn its face in shame. The debate about the desirability of trying Nazi war criminals in Britain is in no way a debate about this fundamental judgement. If the only question was whether Britain still believed it, there could be only one answer.

The prospect of trying Nazi war criminals in Britain stirs feelings of great intensity. There are profound considerations of moral and constitutional principle to be weighed on both sides. Above all, the integrity of the British judicial system must not be compromised. It is self-defeating to judge and punish in the name of justice, if injustice has first to be perpetrated to make this possible.

The Bill which has been presented to Parliament is calculated to address one specific anomaly in the affair: the absence of jurisdiction in the British courts over war crimes committed by those who were not then, but are now, British citizens. It must be said that if war criminals sought British nationality in order to evade justice, then a grievous mistake was made in granting it to them.

The Bill is intended to make plain that Britain is no safe haven for such fugitives by bringing them to account now, notwithstanding the fact that they were not subject to British law at the time. It is for all that a flawed Bill. If the mistake must be corrected, it should be done in some other way.

A foreign citizen who murders another foreign citizen on foreign soil cannot subsequently be tried in Britain for it, however atrocious the circumstances. Otherwise British justice would be claiming jurisdiction over the whole of mankind. Parliament is right to have an intense distaste for retrospective legislation, and to allow it only in the most exceptional circumstances. Those special circumstances must arise from the nature of the legal difficulty, not because of the gravity of the alleged offences.

Yet that is essentially the argument of those who favour this change in the law. They say

that the circumstances were extraordinary precisely because of the scale of the crime and its hideous context. That in their view justifies a departure from a principle which has hitherto been regarded as without exception. The principle is that Parliament should not legislate to turn an act committed in the past, which was not at the time a crime in British law, into a criminal act after the event.

It must not be assumed, at this stage, that any of those suspected of Nazi war crimes who sought and were granted British nationality are guilty. All that can be said at this stage is that a body of *prima facie* evidence exists. If such cases are to be tried before a British court, however, the details of this appalling episode in human affairs will have to be dissected for the benefit of a jury according to the highest standards of proof and fairness, against a fortissimo of publicity.

If convicted, a handful of elderly men would end their days in a British prison – and there would be little sympathy for them. But the magnitude of the crimes alleged are out of all proportion to such a penalty, even at its worst. A few years' deprivation of liberty in the relatively humane conditions of a British jail is almost derisory as a response to what is alleged.

At this distance of time, whatever a jury's verdict, some lingering doubt would always have to exist as to mistaken identity, and as to whether the accused had a fair chance to present a full defence and call all their witnesses. Old men forget. A trial could not be fair if it became no more than a test of fading memories.

In another sense, of course, the memory of those events must never be allowed to fade. One of the reasons put forward for prosecuting alleged war criminals now is the benefit that would come from refreshing the public memory of those fearful times. But that is a political and educational objective, not a judicial one. Even if the criminal cases are abandoned, there can never be absolution for the crimes themselves.

A BLACK AND WHITE CASE

The time has come for the *perestroika* initiated by President de Klerk in South Africa to spread north across the Limpopo. South Africa is rapidly becoming like the proverbial island, a patch of land entirely surrounded by advice. The US Secretary of State, Mr James Baker, is making the first visit to Pretoria by an American of his seniority since the 1970s. The British Foreign Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, is in town. His Soviet counterpart is also perambulating the region. The Namibian independence celebrations are bringing a diplomatic parade through this hitherto untouchable land.

All these high-level visits have been sourly received by Nelson Mandela, the ANC and by many of the frontline state leaders who fear that what they call "pressure" may be taken off Pretoria as a result. At its meeting in Lusaka yesterday the Organization of African Unity was pondering advice from the ANC to step up the pressure, against Western advice to reach some more pragmatic accommodation with the white government to the south.

Officially, the OAU declines to have any dealings with South Africa until apartheid is completely abolished. As always in Africa there is distance between rhetoric and reality. The rhetoric maintains that South Africa is isolated and that no nations are more solid in their support for sanctions than the frontline states. The reality is different. Zimbabwe, under the sternly Marxist Mr Mugabe, is South Africa's second largest African trading partner. South Africa now trades with every state in the continent, and last year the volume of that trade increased by some 40 per cent.

These mostly unofficial economic links are desperately needed. The recent study published by the World Bank, "From Crisis to Sustainable Growth", portrays a region, outside South Africa, that is one of the world's most economically wretched. Agricultural growth is weak, industrial output is declining, export performance is poor. The potential for

growth is there, in the continent's vast resources of land, workforce and mineral reserves. But that potential is unexploited as long as the frontline states regard themselves as the last custodians of eastern European traditions of economic management. In other words, the trouble is politics.

Some members of the OAU – notably in francophone Africa – know well enough that South Africa is today what it has long been the economic superpower of the sub-continent. Its contribution to any revival in the region is simply crucial. But that contribution requires two things. First, South Africa needs to be able to accumulate investment and attract foreign trade. If ANC pressure compels the Pretoria Government to move into a headlong redistribution of wealth for political ends, stagnation beckons.

In some of its pronouncements, the ANC and Mr Mandela appear dimly to understand this. In others, such as those made since Mr Mandela's release, the message is less clear. An ANC-led South Africa will need capitalism every bit as much a white-led one, but is most unlikely to get it.

The second requirement is that the frontline states reach a more public *modus vivendi* with the republic than their tired dictators can, as yet, accept. Those that refuse to promote barter and aid deals with Pretoria cut off their noses to spite their faces. They cheat their populations of prosperity, drive their workers to seek jobs in South Africa and, eventually, destabilize their own one-party regimes by the resultant poverty.

Mr Mandela, the most remarkable leader to emerge on the public stage in southern Africa for decades, recently told his warring supporters in Natal to throw their weapons into the sea. He might usefully tell his allies to the north to do the same to their quotas, plans, sanctions laws and rotten bureaucracies. Obviously, Natal has yet to respond to his pleas.

SUBLIME LOOT

It is unlikely that the thieves who plundered the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston at the weekend ever stopped to ask themselves what they were doing. To them, it was mere merchandise.

How, though, did their understanding of the crime they were committing differ from that of the society around them? Not even the penal code, under which the culprits will doubtless be punished in due course, accords a special weight to thefts of works of art, as opposed to objects of equal value which may be reproduced.

The commercial value of art is subjective, variable and ultimately dependent on a scarcity defined by demand. In less unproductive times, such market value would be of the utmost insignificance, by comparison with the objective characteristics which confer merit upon a picture or a sculpture. Vermeer's "The Concert" would hardly have been worth stealing a century ago, although it was no less rare and no less magnificent than it is today, because there was no demand for Vermeer.

The art world is populated by a dwindling minority of genuine connoisseurs and an army of others who make a little knowledge go a long way. The exhibition "Fake? – The Art of Deception", which opened recently at the British Museum, is an eloquent catalogue of the incompetence of countless curators, critics, auctioneers and others who are paid to distinguish original works from imitations.

Admittedly, the discovery of forgeries is very difficult; to separate a master's work from that of his contemporaries still more so. The temptation for experts to err on the side of commercial advantage is no doubt powerful, and sometimes irresistible. In an art market bloated with the profits of financial institu-

tions guided by nothing more than a desire to maximize returns on investment, corruption is likely to flourish, while opportunities multiply for thieves to dispose of their loot.

There may, however, be less ignoble motives for stealing works of art. In 1911 an Italian student, Vincenzo Perugia, stole the "Mona Lisa". He believed passionately that the works of the great Leonardo, whose name he adopted, should be returned to Italy.

The Paris police briefly arrested Apollinaire, and even Picasso was interrogated. Having consulted a shop near Victoria Station about transport to Florence, Perugia turned up at the Uffizi more than a year later to present the picture to its incredulous director. At his trial in 1914, spectators cheered when he was given the minimum sentence of a year.

What if the "Mona Lisa" had remained at the bottom of Perugia's trunk to this day? The (inaccurate) news that the Communards had set the Louvre ablaze in 1871 caused the great historian Burckhardt to rush to his friend, the philosopher Nietzsche, for consolation. The image of these two lonely figures – speechless with grief at a loss which they felt to be personal, regardless of the museum or country in whose custodianship the works had perished – is a powerful one. Paintings can command far greater prices today; it is doubtful whether their loss arouses such authentic pathos.

It is an accidental quality of the sublime in art that it is bought and sold, often for fabulous sums, by individual or corporate collectors and museums. This sometimes interesting, more often tiresome detail has come to eclipse the aesthetic essence of the works themselves. In the case of stolen pictures which simply vanish, the eclipse is almost total.

Tighter controls on false papers

From Mr Philip Redfern

Sir, The steps that the Government proposes to take to deal with bogus marriages and immigration fraud were described (March 12) by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health. Those steps will help. A more thoroughgoing reform of the registration service would do even more, as well as helping to tackle the many other problems of fraud and denial of citizens' rights (my letter, March 5).

There is a range of ways to organise population records, as practice in Western Europe and North America shows. At the most disciplined and demanding end of the spectrum is a full population register that includes current addresses *plus* identity cards, as in Belgium. Mr Freeman might remind himself that 111 MPs from his own party put their names to this kind of system when they voted for Mr Tony Benn's motion of June 21, 1988, to bring in a Bill to introduce a British identity card.

A full population register *without* issuing ID cards to everyone is less demanding but probably almost as effective; this is the practice in the Scandinavian countries. Less demanding still is a population register that omits current addresses, as in France. Not very different from this are the Canadian and United States registers of people who have applied for social security numbers; these registers cover virtually the whole adult population and are widely used to combat fraud.

Then, at the most primitive and disorganized end of the spectrum, are countries without any multipurpose register of people – the UK and Ireland.

I am not advocating any particular solution, though I doubt whether there is a good case for ID cards. The Registrar General should make a full study of all the options, taking into account privacy, acceptability, and financial implications. We should not dismiss options out of hand, as Mr Freeman seems to do. That is just burying our heads in the sand and a negation of an informed and open society.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP REDFERN (Deputy Director, Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, 1970-82), Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

March 13.

Finding a "fifth man"

From Mr W. J. West

Sir, In the course of researching a book on Roger Hollis and his connections with GRU (Russian military intelligence) – not KGB (Russia's M16) – shortly to be published in New York as *Spymaster: The Betrayal of M16*, I spoke with Dr Christopher Andrew in his capacity of editor of the scholarly journal, *Intelligence and National Security*. After he kindly offered to consider any important new material on Hollis or the security services that I might uncover, we discussed a number of points in my book.

I was deeply concerned, therefore, to learn (report, March 6) that Dr Andrew was working closely with a former member of the security services on a book that had much common ground with my own.

Does the fact that I have discussed such matters with a person possibly connected with the security services bring my book within the ambit of the Official Secrets Act? And if *Spymaster* can only be published in New York, whence comes the apparent immunity of the Gorsky/Andrew book?

It is one thing for books to be banned, and worrying enough. It is a stage further for "official" books to be set up in their place.

Yours sincerely,
W. J. WEST,
36 Fairpark Road,
Exeter, Devon.

March 14.

Sneak preview

From Mr Robert Clough

Sir, Tony Benn is not alone among political celebrities to have read his obituary in advance of the need to use it (Diary, March 14).

Lord Lawson ("Jack"), a former war minister in the Labour Government, with an hour to spare in Newcastle before boarding the night sleeper to London, would occasionally call in at *The Journal* office near by to chat with me, the editor.

In the library his eye fell upon his prepared biography. He read it with deliberation and, chuckling, remarked, "That's excellent, I'll die happy now".

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT CLOUGH,
53 Beatty Avenue,
North Tyneside,
Newcastle upon Tyne.

March 14.

Mandela at Wembley

From Mr Tony Hollingsworth

Sir, Mr Kevin Miller (March 16) asks why Nelson Mandela is "the only resident South African" to appear at the Wembley concert on Easter Monday. First, I would point out that "concert" is too narrow a term to describe the event which has been organised with the twin purpose of celebrating Mr Mandela's release and focusing the world's attention on the continued need to dismantle the abhorrent system of apartheid.

In order for this message to be

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ethical issues in the case of Bazof

From Dr Allen A. Bartholomew

Sir, Ian Mather (report, March 16) suggests that Farzad Bazofi was not acting as a spy but states that Bazofi visited the prohibited area after twice being refused permission, while Christopher Walker notes that the nurse, Mrs Daphne Parish, drove Bazofi to the restricted military zone disguised as an Indian doctor. Is this standard journalistic behaviour?

To this must be added, when we attempt to assess the facts, that Bazofi's conviction in 1981 which led to his prison sentence would appear to have had as a background threatening behaviour with a fake bomb, behaviour that was most likely calculated and premeditated rather than impulsive; further offences involving cheque frauds were taken into consideration.

Finally, one notes that Bazofi attempted to become a "police informer", but that his services were not used as it was decided that his information was unreliable.

I do not support capital punishment for any type of behaviour, including terrorist killings. What I am concerned about is the seeming intent to build up the deceased man as a means of condemning an admittedly brutal regime.

Yours etc.,
ALLEN A. BARTHOLOMEW,
Shirley Lodge,
51 Wickham Road, Shirley,
Croydon, Surrey.

March 16.

From Mr C. A. Roberts

Sir, I hold no candle for the Iraqi Government; however, I do believe that they are not the real culprits for the demise of Mr Bazofi. The blame surely lies with a British press, on this occasion typified by *The Observer*, who appear to believe that being a journalist elevates a person above both his fellow citizens and, in this case, other governments.

Allowed for years to treat Western governments with contempt, editors seem unable to understand why the sending of an Iranian citizen to pry (one man's investigative journalism is another man's spying) into the affairs at a secret military base, run by a

before the wage award, a worker would have a an average tax liability would have a a take-home pay per annum of approximately £5,460.

True, some, and indeed many, employers may well choose to increase their employees' remuneration arbitrarily, but there will be no guidelines. Some will pay none; some will pay some, and some will pay all, which will lead to obvious and possible strained relations between employers and employees.

The only way that this situation can be remedied – and remedied it must be – is that either the wage award must be at least doubled, or, better still, the rate at which firm workers pay their poll tax levied on the basis of ability to pay and directly related to the level of income tax they pay.

Yours faithfully,
MOUNTGARRET,
Stanley House, South Stanley,
Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

From Mr Dave Nellist, MP for Coventry South East (Labour). Sir, In Matthew Parr's political sketch (March 16) he states: "Mr Nellist has now resigned the Labour whip".

I want to make it crystal clear that that is not the case. Despite calls in recent days from several Tory Cabinet ministers, in numerous press releases, for the whip to be withdrawn from me for my opposition to the poll tax and my determination to stand shoulder to shoulder with those millions of families unable to pay, I have no intention of resigning – nor has any officer of the Parliamentary Labour Party asked me to do so.

A worker on the basic agricultural wage will take home from next June, after tax, an average of £5,760 per annum. Out of this he may have to find £700 per annum for poll tax. Before poll tax, and

From Mr Frank Paton

Sir, In reporting the waywardness of the recent weather (March 19) you infer that a hot March precedes an indifferent summer.

In this part of England we say:

"Oak before ash – splash;

ash before oak – soak".

Last year the oaks were in full leaf before the ash started to leaf. This year the ash are ahead of the still tight oak buds.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK PATON,
Smeoburgh,
Bridgwater,
Somerset.

March 19.

Training young opera singers

From the Chairman of National Opera Studio

Sir, In her recent article (March 14) about young opera singers Hilary Finch rightly stresses the importance of training. But her picture of a few random small-scale initiatives operating in isolation, seems a little over-gloomy.

I can only speak for the National Opera Studio (NOS). We may be small, but we were planned to be so, in order to fulfil our special purpose. This has always been to give training in performance to a limited number – we hope the cream – of opera graduates from the colleges of music and of young singers who already have some experience in the profession.

As for isolation, our board consists of the heads of the country's leading opera companies and the size of our intake – a dozen or so a year – seems to them, and to us, to be about right. That so many of them have, in our 12 years' existence, been immediately placed and achieved success with those companies gives us confidence. To take only those mentioned by Miss Finch as nurtured by the Royal Opera House and English National Opera – Jean Rigby, Cathryn Pope, Michael Druiett, Judith Howarth, Gillian Webster and Anthony Michaels-Moore – all but two

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FROM YESTERDAY'S LATER EDITIONS

THE ARTS

Terry Hands, artistic director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, argues that the subsidized theatre's prime duty is to new writers

First-timers come first

When Shakespeare and his contemporaries reformed the English language in the 17th century, they instigated the growth of a dramatic literature unmatched in scope and richness. While the Germans got on with their music and the Italians their painting, the British wrote poetry and plays. Any contemporary subsidized company could build its entire repertoire for a decade out of home-grown classics and still leave hundreds of plays untouched.

On the whole that is what most companies do, and they accept Press castigation for parochialism with a good grace. It is refreshing, therefore, to be criticized by Benedict Nightingale (Arts Page, March 6) for not being parochial enough.

He is right to eulogize the classics of modern drama that had their first performance in the subsidized theatre, but it is right to task the National Theatre and the RSC for not reviving more of them in the last 30 years? Some were not even written that long ago.

If we take the last 10 years as a more reasonable measure, then revivals have not been infrequent. The RSC, for instance, has revived 10 modern classics in that time including *The Devils* and *Penny For a Song* by John Whiting, *The Fool and Lear* by Edward Bond, and *The Party* by Trevor Griffiths. An average of one a year seems to me pretty reasonable. Should we be reviving *Good* by C.P. Taylor? We were still performing the original production in 1982. Should we already be reviving Ayckbourn while he still nourishes us with brilliant new plays year after year?

More important, if these classics are "certain to seize the mind and feelings as boldly as any

being written nowadays" — and I rather agree with Benedict Nightingale here — then is it not an opportunity for the commercial theatre "to see how seaworthy such vessels remain"?

Surely it is essential that the subsidized theatre should remain predominantly the seedbed of really contemporary writing — writing even more "bang beneath our educated noses" than the classics. Benedict Nightingale so reasonably extols. If we take again the last 10 years, the record is exceptional. The RSC alone has produced over 70 new plays in that time. If you add the National Theatre and the Royal Court the number would probably more than double. Not all have been successful, but among them we can number David Edgar's remarkable *Maydays*, Nichols' *Poppy*, Barnes' *Red Nose*, Poliakoff's *Breaking The Silence* — all award-winners. Which is more exciting? To take an academic second look at *Luther*, or wait for what Wertenbaker will write next, or Nick Dear, Nicholas Wright, David Lan, or Peter Flannery?

These days, to produce new plays at all is a risk. They are not "cost effective" — rarely "profitable", hardly "business-like". It is difficult to raise sponsorship for a play that questions the *status quo* or is by its very nature untried. For the public, the unique poetry of Howard Barker or the spare articulacy of Edward Bond may require effort. The rewards are great but the commitment must be two-way. Even critics sometimes have difficulty with plays for which there is no previous category.

Yet new writing and new writers are the future of our theatre. They require more help, more patience, more generosity. The play you

see today may be part of a learning process, the next may be a hit. But the writer needs performance to progress, and we cannot always expect instant mass appeal. Nor should we. Which is why the Royal Court, for instance, needs a higher percentage subsidy than either the National Theatre or the RSC.

New plays sometimes outlive their own periods, but even that may not be an absolute criterion of success. They should speak immediately to their own time in the language of their own time. Benedict Nightingale aptly describes such plays as needing to embody "the anxiety, pain, frustration, challenge, comedy and occasionally even exhilarations of living in times that raise a million private and public questions and definitively answer none". That is indeed the role of the modern playwright; but it requires subsidy and thanks to subsidy we still have more living writers practising than any other European country, and plays second to none.

Subsidy levels, after five years of cuts in real terms, are now perilously low. As Richard Wilding said in his report, companies have reached "the point at which they can no longer put on programmes of the high international standard rightly expected of them". Nor, he might have added, the high *national* standard to which the public has grown accustomed. Unless this trend is reversed, plays like Hare's National Theatre *Racing Demon* or Flannery's RSC *Singer* would simply be too risky to mount.

I am all for cherishing the recent past, but not at the expense of the immediate future. If anybody is to be chastised for neglecting their duty it may be the subsidizing authorities rather than under-subsidized theatre companies.

Antony Sher, in the RSC production of *Singer* by Peter FlannerySunny (Rosalind March, left) and Champ (Steven Hartley) in *Mill Fire*

Choosing not to make a drama out of a crisis

THEATRE
Benedict NightingaleMill Fire
Riverside Studios

Half-way through Sally Nemeth's sensitive, intelligent but somewhat muted study of bereavement and grief, my mind drifted to an older play on the subject, D.H. Lawrence's *Widowing of Mrs Holroyd*.

At its climax a woman washes the body of her husband, killed in the local coalmine. In life she disliked him, and was planning to go. His death transforms her feelings into a barely definable blend of pain, regret, self-pity, recrimination, self-accusation and helplessness.

It is one of the great moments of

modern theatre, a scene that leaves you feeling you have intruded on something appallingly intimate and profound; and it would be highly unreasonable to expect Nemeth, promising young dramatist though she is, to match it. However, she has funkied the opportunity to do so — or, rather, she has made a crucial choice which means it is impossible for her to create anything remotely as complex and dramatic.

Nemeth is American, her setting Alabama, her characters steel-workers and their wives. One couple seem to spend their leisure hours snuggled in bed, sleeping or making fairly sensational love. Another is in disarray, with the husband apparently impotent and his wife drunkenly preparing to leave him. When the furnace explodes with a roar that makes a Riverside quake and judder, it is Clare Holman's happy Marlene

and not Rosalind March's troubled Sunny who ends up widowed. Marlene's feelings are strong and not uninteresting. She comes to an anniversary service wearing an unsuitable red dress, she has erotic conversations with her dead husband, and she refuses the compensation offered by the steel company. In other words, she cannot come to terms with a loss made doubly difficult by a nurse's black-clad mourner. Helped by Brian Sturz's crisp, unsentimental direction, and performances lacking little but consistent Southern accents, the author successfully shows us what it is to get an emergency call at 2am, what it means to find your bed permanently empty, and much else.

Yet somehow it is not quite enough. Nemeth is capable of emotional surgery more taxing. Next time perhaps she will cut deeper.

ANDREW HAMILTON-JANE



Hammering home a message? Angus Fairhurst, one of the eight artists preparing for *Modern Medicine*. Sighted projectors will relay the hum of the machines back outside to two small loudspeakers placed either side of the window.

Modern Medicine will be a provocative show; anyone who likes their art in oils and on canvas is in for a shock. Put simply, the thinking behind these artists is that, were he alive today, Leonardo would probably be working with computer graphics and photocopies. As Collingshaw's

piece suggests, this is an exhibition concerned with modern mechanics of visual communication.

Remarkably, it is still possible to "read" the faces, but whether they are actually smiling or not is unclear. The viewer is left with the unsettling knowledge that, these days, intense feelings can be communicated through a series of dots on a page.

• *Modern Medicine* is at the Tower Bridge Business Square, Drumnond Road, London, SE16, from March 31 to May 16. Further details from 01-858 3179.

Where are the wits?

TELEVISION
Sheridan Morley

A reader's postcard with a hand-sketched view of Land's End (presumably sent to show me precisely where to jump off) accuses me of not spending enough of this column considering television comedy, to which the short answer is that I cannot find any. This is one of the most dire periods ever for television fun, with French, Saunders, Fry and Laurie all functioning below their best and the only genuine hilarity to be found in anguished ministers attempting to explain to *Paranormal* the benefits of the poll tax.

What is surprising, though, is the number of interesting and excellent actors still prepared to plough through the rubbish being paraded out to them by supposedly comic scriptwriters. The BBC has neatly shown up the awfulness of Penelope Keith's new female MP series on ITV, for instance, by the simple device of repeating *To the Manor Born*.

They themselves are, however, not a lot better off the chronically underwritten *Don't Wait Up* (BBC 1, Sundays) is only ever saved by the brilliant casting of veterans from the last golden era of stylish British stage and screen comedy (Dinah Sheridan, Tony Britton), or actors who were brought up with a healthy respect for it (Simon Williams, Nigel Havers); while on Mondays the ubiquitous John Bird is with Hannah Gordon and Peter Egan doing mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on a second series of *Joint Account*, which opened last night.

An exchange such as "Where are my course notes?" "I thought all yours were terribly refined", does not inspire deep confidence in the writer, Don Webb, who occasionally adds afterthoughts such as "This conversation seems to be disappearing into nowhere", as though to alert us to the difficulties and dangers of being a joke-provider to the Corporation.

On Channel 4, although the *TV Times* billing was extremely careful not to explain the fact, *Cutting Edge* last night departed from its series of raw-ran documentaries to screen a revised version of an Oscar-nominated film, first seen on BBC 2 five years ago. Bob Connolly's account of the *First Contact* between a remote tribe in Papua New Guinea and Australian explorers, in 1930, richly deserved its revival. This was not least for the moment when the Papuans discovered they were not the sole creatures on earth and that white men were therefore not necessarily their dead come back to life as ghosts.

Contrary of Mary

ROCK
Tony PatrickMary Coughlan
Dominion

It is infuriating when a singer as talented as Mary Coughlan, whose lived-in voice and directness of technique are allied to an emotional honesty, fails to communicate these qualities in full.

At the first of her London concerts last week, a combination of a top-heavy backing band, poor sound-mixing and an air of ill-preparedness about the singer herself meant that her best was only fitfully evident. It would be unfortunate if she ever became showbiz-glossy, but is there not something equally false about being defiantly untethered and shambolic in her presentation?

Coughlan is touring as her excellent third album, *Uncertain Pleasures*, is released, and the set featured almost all of its tracks, among which the two by Mark E. Nevin, "Red Ribbon" and "Leaf on a Tree", emerged relatively undamaged by the heavy-handed musicians and found her in good strong voice.

In a couple of songs, "Invisible" and "The Little Death", uncertain pitch and apparent confusion among the crowd on stage (anything up to a dozen at times) almost scuppered the enterprise altogether. "Man of the World", which has a teasingly interesting rhythm on record, was another victim of the occasion, its feet dragging and its jokey lyrics seeming merely vulgar.

Two guitarists and two backing singers looked and sounded like an indulgence: the former over-amplified and over-exposed, the latter under-amplified and given little to do. When the stage cleared a little and she sang with a minimum of backing, as on "Can I Dream, Can't I?" and "Leaf on a Tree", she made me remember why I had bought a ticket, and made the journey to the inopportune Dominion, rather than staying at home with the CD player.

Such moments were few in a disappointing evening. Opportunities were missed and between-song remarks were mumbled. Only towards the end of the show and in the encores, particularly a tarky "These Boots Were Made for Walking", complete with formation dancing, did I begin to feel that the good-humoured apparent on stage was communicated to the audience.

Grotesque plot overestimates young company

MUSIC THEATRE
Stephen PettittThe Wondrous Tale of Fanfrelizzzy Sunnyfeet
Watermans Arts Centre

Since his appointment as principal of Trinity College of Music, the trumpet player, Philip Jones, has apparently been wielding his new broom with singular enthusiasm. One innovation has been the creation, with the conductor Rhonda Kess, of a music theatre group called *A Moveable Feast*,

which has already tackled Ligeti's *Aventures* and *Nouvelles Aventures*.

This time, the work the group performed was Kurt Schwertsik's pantomime opera *The Wondrous Tale of Fanfrelizzzy Sunnyfeet*, composed in 1983 for Stuttgart Opera and performed here in David Drew's translation. The heroine of the piece, she whose name graces the title, is a good witch played with abundant humour (in more senses than one) by Debbie Gordon.

I ought to add that the villain, Harum (Nigel Hodder), is a sex-maniac and demented murderer,

and also that, in one scene, the witch acts as midwife at the labour of her daughter Miss Go-To-Wed (Giselle Minns), who happens to be a goat and who, naturally enough, falls in love with Harum. There is also a hunchback, Hobblebuck Pomperle, who gives Mark Williams the chance to display his aptitude for comic pathos. All this is staged as if improvised by a collection of customers at a Thirties speakeasy. You would have to be pretty high to dream up such a tale.

Schwertsik keeps things simple, tonal, and repetitive. His manner resembles Weill's theatre music, and though the dramatic absurdism of the piece sits more uncomfortably on the shoulders of this style than any Brechtian plot.

Perhaps it would be less jarring given a more assured and professional performance than these young artists can yet deliver. Too often there were insecure moments in the choruses and anxious sidelong glances at the conductor (placed on stage with her small band), while the direction, also by Kess, was over-complex and the acting inexpert. Nevertheless, it was a good try, and certainly an initiative which should be encouraged.

section is tested with particular ferocity.

In the 1983 *Viola Concerto*, too, some of the old avant-garde colour has returned to Penderecki's neo-Romantic *chic*. The 1986 *Passacaglia for Orchestra*, though beginning unpromisingly (approximately three dozen grunts on a single bass note), soon develops into a hyper-active, virtuoso display piece, providing a showcase for each section in turn. There are long, angular solos for many wind principals, then the whole viola

and goodwill, creeping in where it gets the chance.

More recently, however, some of the old avant-garde colour has returned to Penderecki's neo-Romantic *chic*. The 1986 *Passacaglia for Orchestra*, though beginning unpromisingly (approximately three dozen grunts on a single bass note), soon develops into a hyper-active, virtuoso display piece, providing a showcase for each section in turn. There are long, angular solos for many wind principals, then the whole viola

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Neo-Romantic syrup

garde grotesqueries into a writer of syrupy scores that seemed just as flamboyantly to affirm 19th-century notions of melody and harmony. On Friday night we heard the *Second Symphony*, "Christina", which represents this latter style at its most blatant.

Simplicity comes perilously close to a kind of grandiose banality here. Churning contrapuntal passages probably represent the troubled world, while sentimental dollops of "Silent Night" stand for the spirit of peace

and goodwill, creeping in where it gets the chance.

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PARIS FASHION by Liz Smith

A sharp edge to the Nineties



Above left: Claude Montana's zipped trapeze ivory wool coat with high collar and band of yellow around hem



Above centre: Yohji Yamamoto's three-dimensional geometric top in cream wool



Far right: Christian Lacroix's wool knit sweater and cycling shorts with bands of colour

There is fashion beyond the humble parka, and there are designers with ideas more stimulating than the basic duffel. After staring in every show in Milan and London in recent weeks, the locker-room look of hooded sweatshirt and leggings risked running out of steam. Some structure was needed to pull together these basics of the contemporary casual uniform.

As the Paris shows gained momentum this week, a sharp, chiselled silhouette stands out in strong, vivid colours. A new geometric line that looks as if it has been drawn using a set-square and compass has emerged.

A circular cape collar unfurls around a short trapeze coat at Montana. Tubular shorts are bisected and banded in colour at Lagerfeld. Long skinny jackets mould the contours of a basic bodysuit at Gaultier and Chanel. Flashes of bright orange and acid green punctuate the sombre shades of brown and aubergine.

With thigh-high boots and Barbarella all-in-ones seen in every collection, it could look like the Sixties revisited. But the individual talents of top Paris fashion names are so confidently stamped that the line looks freshly minted for the Nineties.

PVC and vinyl panels and tapes, thick-ribbed tights, and

hemlines dipping to the back recall the style established in the Sixties by Courrèges and Cardin. In 1990 Pierre Cardin, both the man and his sculpted cut, are back in fashion — a retrospective exhibition celebrating his 40 years in fashion opens at the Victoria & Albert Museum this autumn. It has been easy to dismiss Cardin as out of touch with fashion in recent years. In 1990, it looks as if his space-age bodysuits and geometric cut-outs are in for a revival.

Christian Lacroix's signature silhouette is the trapeze. For 1990 it is a sugar pink or acid green thick wool coat, often with a loose drawstring detailing left slack at the waist, and worn over jazzy-patterned or cable-knit leggings. Striped and banded skinny sweater dresses and bodysuits are worn with high-heeled "trainers". Short printed velvet skirts clash with a jacket that is a colourful patchwork of tweed. Romper suits in taffeta and baby-doll smocks in printed silk and chiffon have a distinctly Sixties feel.

Claude Montana looked

defiant as he strode down the catwalk at the end of a superb show at the weekend. Hurt by the harsh reception given to his first couture collection for Lanvin in January, he shrewdly elided his critics with a spot-on collection that lifted the relaxed, contemporary mood

into high fashion. His colours are the yellows and oranges of Warhol flower paintings. Sergeant Pepper tunics and suits are chain-frogged, but that is where he left behind the Sixties and took his collection into the Nineties. Neat scissored slashes in wool coats were held together with steel rivets for an angular, articulated movement. The series of white, thick wool coats banded in blocks of red and yellow at the hem were a nod to the inspiration of Cardin.

Yohji Yamamoto's geometric shapes and three-dimensional cubes and circles stitched on to dresses are also clearly inspired by Cardin, as were his cut-out pinup dresses of last season.

The skinny silhouette of a long-line jacket worn over a short, soft skirt or leggings was originated by Karl Lagerfeld. In his own label he simply reworks his asymmetric tweed jackets, and clasp a cocoon coat over a layered ribbed tunic skirt and tights, worn with above-the-knee boots. For evening, red or pink satin trapeze tunics are worn three-quarter length over short, pleated or draped, black georgette dresses.

Lagerfeld loves colour this season: the new Chanel jacket is in violet, red, or green speckled tweed, often with a bag to match. He cleverly uses quilting, for leather and tweed jackets. The padded parka and quilted blouson look perfectly at home here with gilt buttons and black satin binding.

Fabrics with substance are brought back into fashion by the structured geometric line. Double jersey, thick flat wool and tweed, fake fur and velvet, are all mixed with metallic textured knits, lamé and brocade.

Gianfranco Ferré at Dior has relaxed into a sportier mood with leather sweaters and jackets worn over sleek ski pants. Valentino's favourite short skirts are often ties or pleats glimpsed under a tweed jacket. This season his embroidered sweaters are inspired by a collection of Etruscan vases in his house in Capri.

Gaultier took us to the faded plush of the old Lido on the Champs Elysées to show his remarkably controlled version of the contemporary look. Baby-doll smocks in lace and lamé, Jacquard knitted bodysuits, perfectly cut, fitted pinstriped jackets — he showed them all, layered one over another. But taken as individual pieces these, like the other sharply chiselled clothes shown in Paris, add up to the distinctive look of the

Barbarella bodysuits and cut-outs may sound like the Sixties revisited, but the geometric, chiselled silhouette is completely fresh



HOTLINE

French Blair

The British designer Alastair Blair, who stepped into the spotlight at the Paris shows with the announcement of his appointment as the new designer of ready-to-wear at Balmain, is no newcomer to Paris fashion. On leaving St Martin's School of Art he worked in the studios at Givenchy and Dior before joining Karl Lagerfeld at Chloe, and moving with him when he set up the Lagerfeld house.

When Blair established his own business in London in 1986, one of his first designs made front-page news when it was worn by the Duchess of York for the first official pictures of her engagement. Blair also designed a collection for Jaeger, and a cashmere line for Murray Allan. Blair will start at Balmain on April 1, and his first Balmain Ivoire collection will be shown in Paris in October.

"In London I was criticized that my look was too French," he says. "I have spent nine years working in Paris and only three and a half in London. I am thrilled to be back."

Cerruti winners

Times readers are Cerruti fans. Most of you who joined in our Cerruti/Selfridges competition correctly gave 1881 as the year the company was founded. The winner, who can choose a Cerruti suit, is Mr Richard Bowden of London SW8. The five runners-up are Mrs Michael Boxford of London SW10, Mrs B.P. Miller of Dorking, Pasqualina Padové of London N4, Lloyd Richardson of Peterborough, and Rajan Tejura of Ewell, all of whom will receive a bottle of Cerruti Eau de Toilette for men. All the winners also receive two tickets to see *The War of the Roses*, whose star, Michael Douglas, wears Cerruti clothes in the film.

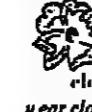
Down, not out

Paris fashion is going underground. Ambitious plans are under way for a fashion centre to be built under the Tuileries gardens, opposite the Musée d'Orsay. The only visible part of the new Maison de la Mode will be the entrance and stairwell leading to exhibition halls, restaurants and car park. The current arrangement of show tents pitched in a courtyard at the Louvre was always temporary. The unique plan for a permanent fashion centre establishes Paris as the capital of fashion. "It is time that we had a permanent place to present what we create," says Jacques Mousier, president of the French Federation of Couturiers.



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PREVIEW

TODAY Theatre & Cabaret

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The Times Preview features a different area of the arts each day Monday to Friday, as indicated above, including events in the following seven days. Plus the Cinema Guide

THEATRE

Jeremy Kingston

NEW IN LONDON

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL: New season opens with transfer of Barry Kyle's production, coolly received at last year's Stratford. Barbican Theatre, Barbican Centre, EC2 (01-588 8861). Underground: Barbican/Monarchs/St Paul's. Preview from Sat, 7.30-10.30pm. Opens: March 30, 7.10pm. Then in repertory. Previews and Thurs mat: 2.15-5. After March 30: even and Sat mat: 2.15-5.00.

CANT PAY, WON'T PAY: Revolting housewives take over the supermarket. Patricia Brake and David Roper lead a revival of Dario Fo's anarchic farce. Lyric Theatre, King Street, W6 (01-741 2311). Underground: Hammersmith. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed 2.30pm, Sat 4pm, 2.50-2.50. Until March 31.

AN EVENING WITH PETER USTINOV: Anecdotes and mimicry from the man who has met everyone and can imitate most of them. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (01-830 9882). Underground: Piccadilly. Preview: Friday 8pm. Opens: tomorrow, 7pm. Tues-Sat 7.30pm, mat Sun 4pm, 2.50-2.50. Until April 23.

THE GAMBLER: Compulsive's switchback ride to disaster: black comedy with jazz. Last year's Bubble Theatre's award-winner starts four week tour round the Fringe. Watermans Arts Centre, 40 High Street, Brentford (01-568 1176). British Rail: Kew Bridge. Opens tonight, 8pm. Then, tomorrow, Wed, March 25, 2.30-3pm, 2.55. March 26 (Mon): 2 tickets for the price of one.

THE GOVERNOR INSPECTOR: Tara Arts transpose Gogol from provincial Russia to the Raj: new tour of last year's ingenious production starts here. Battersea Arts Centre, Old Town Hall, Lewes Road, Hove, SW11 (01-223 2224). British Rail: Clapham Junction. Opens tonight, 8pm. Then Tues-Sun, 8pm until April 1; Wed-Sun, 8pm until April 12, 2.50.

HOW STEEPLE STINNEY WON THE FA.CUP: Or how a stage version of J.L. Carr's enjoyable novel about village giant-killers came from Worcester to Leatherhead and into London. Very bleak. Mermaid Theatre, Pudding Dock, EC4 (01-293 5536). Underground: Blackfriars. Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat 8pm, mat Sun 8pm and Sat 8.30pm, 2.50-2.50. From March 25, 2.50-2.50.

NEVER THE SHINN: Joie Ackland plays Clarence Darroch in latest version of the Leopold/Lob "thrill id" case. The play comes garlanded with awards from its 1985 Chicago production.

Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (01-839 4401). Underground: Embankment. Preview from tonight, 7.45pm. Opens March 29, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat 8pm. Previews and mats 2.50-2.50. From March 25, 2.50-2.50.

SINGER: Antony Sher plays a charade-like Jew clambering from Nazi camp to vast wealth in modern Britain; a riveting performance in Peter Flannery's dark comedy.

The Pit, Barbican Centre, Sils Street, EC2 (01-588 8891). Underground: Barbican/Monarchs/St Paul's. Preview from Thurs, 7.30-10.30pm. Opens Fri, 7.10pm. Then in repertory. Eves 2.15, mat 2.50.

CONTINUING

BUS STOP: Long wait for a journey to nowhere with Jerry Hall. Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-437 3686). Underground: Piccadilly. Mon-Thurs 8-10pm, Fri and Sat 8.45-10.45pm, mats Fri and Sat 8-8pm, 2.50-2.50.



Reborn out of a rubbish tip

Eight years ago, two Oxford papyrologists tracked down the fragment of a lost satyr play by Sophocles on a rubbish tip outside the ancient Egyptian town of Oxyrhynchus. These plays were lusty burlesques performed as a contrast after a group of tragedies in the Festivals, and only one other example has come down to us. Two years ago Tony Harrison, translator of *The Misanthrope* and *The Mysteries* for the National Theatre, incorporated the fragment in a play of his own, *The Trackers of Oxyrhynchus*, rehearsed it in the NT studio and directed it for one performance at Apollo's shrine in Delphi (as seen in our photograph, above). From Thursday his play starts previews at the Olivier in what some might call our closest equivalent to a

shrine of drama. The original *Ichnaeae* (*The Trackers*) tells how Apollo acquired his lyre and with it means to enchant and dominate through song. Harrison cunningly uses this plot to convey the message of many of his poems, the power of language – Apollo ends up speaking grand RP (Received Pronunciation) – to lord it over rougher tongues, as spoken here by the Satyrs. Jack Shepherd and Barnie Rutter play the Oxyrhynchus linguists caught up in the drama, and Brian Glover plays the infant Hermes. *The Trackers of Oxyrhynchus*, National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 (01-928 2252). Previews from Thursday, 7.15pm, opens March 27, 7pm. Then in repertory. 2.50-2.50.

Jeremy Kingston

THE CHERRY ORCHARD: Judi Dench and Ronald Pickup head a strong cast in Sam Mendes's clear, almost jolly production. Last week.

Albion Theatre, Aldeburgh WC2 (01-588 6404). Underground: Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30-10.30pm, mats Wed 2.30pm, 2.50-2.50.

EXCHANGE: Martin Jarvis heads the cast in Michael Frayn's translation of long-running Moscow hit by Trifonov: flat-searching and heart-rending in modern Soviet Union.

Bolton Theatre, Strand, WC2 (01-266 9987). Underground: Charing Cross. Mon-Fri 7.45-9.30pm, Sat 8.15-10.30pm, mats Wed 6.30-10pm, and Sat 5.70-10pm.

JACKETS: It. Last week of Edward Bond's powerful, moving, angry play about society's crooked fabric, set in a not-in-torn European city not unlike Leicester, where the play was premiered.

Bell Theatre, Shepherd's Bush Green, W1 (01-743 3388). Underground: Shepherd's Bush. Tues-Sun 8pm.

THE LIAR: Last week of Jonathan Miller's spirited production of the sparkly Comedie comedy. Nick Sampson takes over from Alex Jennings for the last performance.

Old Vic Theatre, Waterloo Road, SE1 (01-925 7616). Underground: Waterloo. Mon-Fri 7.30-9.30pm, Sat 7.45-9.45pm, mats Wed 2.30pm and Sat 4pm, 2.50-2.50.

CHIELEMANS: Of mice and men. Cleo Kneller and Jon Morris play Steinbeck's two farm workers whose odyssey ends in tragedy.

Everyman, Regent Street (0242 562573). From Thurs, 7.45pm. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8pm, 2.50-2.50. Until April 14.

CREWE: The Master's Tale. Manchester Royal Exchange. Mobile Theatre

Calder and Alan MacNaughtan. Last week.

Young Vic Theatre, 66 The Cut, SE1 (01-928 6883). Underground: Waterloo. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats 2.30pm, 2.50-2.50.

OUTSIDE LONDON

BOLTON: Hedda Gabler. Haydn Gwynne plays the seething title-role in Christopher Hampton's NT translation.

Octagon, Bolton Croft, South (0204 20661). Preview tomorrow, 7.30pm. Open Thurs, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat April 7, 2pm, 2.50-2.50. Until April 21.

BUXTON: The Comedy of Errors. An even English Stage Company production but lovely to look at and the comic errors succeed with such early identifications.

Opera House, Water Lane, SW8 (0282 72190). Today-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Fri 2.30pm, 2.50-2.50.

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CREWE: The Master's Tale. Manchester Royal Exchange. Mobile Theatre

tour starts here – a first visit to this venue – with Phyllida Lloyd's fine production. Sports Centre, Rape Lane (0270 652221). Wed-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Fri 1.30pm, 2.50.

GUILDFORD: The Wild Duck. Peter Hall's strong company, led by Nicholas McAuliffe, David Threlfall and Alex Jennings, tour with Ibsen's great drama about dreams, deception, and a pistol shot in the attic.

Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Millbrook (0482 8019). Mon-Thurs 7.45pm, Fri and Sat 8pm, mat March 29, 2.30pm. Eves 2.50-2.50, mat 2.50-2.50. Until March 31.

LIVERPOOL: Love is a Lie. Stylish production of Catherine Trotter's 1700 comedy where three heroines prove more than a match for their merciful, endearing show; pretty white costumes, Evergreen, Hope Street (01-709 4776). Tues, Wed and Sat 8pm, 2.50-2.50. In rep with *70s Pig's Whore*.

MANCHESTER: The Crucible. David Suchet, Eleanor David, Barry Foster in what promises to be a quality production by Gregory Hines.

Royal Exchange, St Ann's Square (061 633 9833). Opens Thurs, 7pm. Then Mon-Thurs 7.30pm, Fri and Sat 8pm, mat Wed 2.30pm and Sat 4pm, 2.50-2.50.

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MANCHE

Stonehenge scarred by graffiti artists



BY JULIAN HERBERT

Mr Brian Davison, inspector of ancient monuments for English Heritage, yesterday considering his next move at a partially sackcloth-shrouded Stonehenge which, like an awkward, over-large present, defies all attempts to wrap it.

The exercise is not the latest attempt at living sculpture by Christo, the eccentric Bulgarian artist who in 1984 covered the entire Pont Neuf in Paris with rope and orange plastic (Paul Wilkinson writes).

The covers on the prehistoric stones in fact hide 3 ft letters in white cellulose paint, spelling out "LIVE", which were daubed on Britain's best-known ancient monument in the early hours of Sunday morning, probably by a group of some 20 people police and security guards discovered and evicted from the site during the night. The graffiti was not found until daylight.

Mr Davison and other experts were called in to assess the damage and to consider how the paint can be removed without causing permanent scars on the stones.

Stonehenge has felt victim to vandalism more than seven years ago. It was also attacked in 1980.

A spokesman said: "We thought we had this place adequately patrolled... However, we are not about to start putting armies around it. We shall take another look at security. This is a public monument and it is a great shame that a small minority should try to spoil it for others."

A small band of travellers has gathered at the monument for today's spring equinox, but English Heritage is not accusing anyone, not even a band of Merseyside graffiti artists who might have been trying to write the name of their favourite soccer team...

Lithuania seeks talks as ultimatum expires

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

The Lithuanian leadership yesterday replied to President Gorbachov's ultimatum by defending the week-old declaration of independence as entirely legal and calling for talks with Moscow on full secession from the Soviet Union.

The reply was brought to the Soviet capital by a Lithuanian delegation only hours before the three-day deadline set by President Gorbachov.

The reply also rejected a resolution passed last week by the Congress of People's Deputies, saying that the Congress had no authority to pronounce on Lithuania's affairs. The resolution had condemned Lithuania's independence declaration as "illegal and unconstitutional".

The Lithuanian delegation comprised six members of the Soviet Union's Supreme Soviet, who are continuing to take part in Supreme Soviet commissions while withdrawing from the parliament's general work.

They had hoped to hand the reply directly to President Gorbachov at the Supreme Soviet, but yesterday's session was presided over by the new chairman, Mr Anatoli Lukyanov, and it was not clear whether they would see President Gorbachov.

Mr Algirdas Brazauskas, the leader of the Lithuanian Communist Party, which broke with Moscow at the end of last year, was not in the delegation. He was named First

Deputy Prime Minister at the weekend and gave his new post priority.

In a move which might be regarded by the Lithuanian delegation as a slight, the secretary of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee yesterday held a meeting with the leaders of the neighbouring Baltic state of Estonia. The meeting, convened by the editor of *Pravda*, Mr Ivan Fradov, who had attended it, said it had been a friendly exchange of opinions.

He would not disclose whether Mr Gorbachov was present, though as General Secretary of the party he would be expected to be there.

The meeting may have been part of Estonia's reward for supporting the establishment of the new-style presidency at last week's Congress of People's Deputies. The republic's leaders were promised that the question of Estonia's independence would be the subject of a commission of inquiry.

It is also possible that Moscow is deliberately trying to contrast what it regards as the precipitate behaviour of Lithuania in declaring independence so soon with the slower approach (so far) of the other two Baltic states.

Even as the secretariat was meeting, one of the Lithuanian deputies, Mr Egidius Bickus, tried to present his republic's reasons for declaring independence to the Soviet economy from Lithuania's departure. He himself predicted that the talks could take between a year and 18 months.

Moscow's main aim, he believed, would be to slow down the talks with Lithuania to minimize disruption to the Soviet economy from Lithuania's departure. He himself predicted that the talks could take between a year and 18 months.

US attempts to count homeless

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

An army of 15,000 workers will go out on to the streets of America tonight to conduct the first census of the nation's homeless.

In an attempt to count the uncountable, they will go to shelters and hostels, railway and bus stations, hospital waiting rooms and airports, all-night cinemas and cafés.

They will search parks and look on top of every city heating grate. They will check abandoned cars and buildings, and even caves in the foothills of southern California where migrant workers sleep.

It is a massive \$2.7 million (2.17 million) effort, but is not enough to satisfy many advocates for the homeless who are refusing to co-operate. They contend that the census cannot begin to count all the homeless and will therefore be used to play down — and starve of federal funds — one of America's most glaring social problems.

In Washington the White House itself is ringed by homeless people, almost always black, who have set up makeshift shelters in the famous Mall. Informed guesses suggest that the number of homeless nationwide could exceed three million.

Burning census forms outside the Justice House Shelter which is run in Roanoke, Virginia, Mr David Haydon protested: "It cannot be done accurately. The format is going to lead inevitably to a gross undercount... and the political consequences of an undercount will be devastating to homeless people."

"S'Night", as it is called, begins at 6pm. For safety reasons the workers have been instructed not to go inside abandoned buildings, and for reasons of privacy they have been told not to wake homeless people who are asleep. Instead they must try to guess their age, sex and race.

The Census Bureau readily admits that the count will have many shortcomings, but will provide data for others to interpret. That is what advocates for the homeless fear.

more trade unionists to become party members.

More radically, it is expected to result in the end of compulsory reselection under which all MPs have a vote of up to 40 per cent in any parliamentary selection.

Instead it proposes a full one member-one vote system in which the voice of the unions would be heard by recruiting

ways of preventing MPs being subjected to a time-consuming and personally draining experience if their local parties do not desire it. Options to be considered are the granting of a vote for party members in a constituency on whether or not to hold a reselection conference and an end to the need for a reselection if there is only one candidate, the so-called "shortlist-of-one".

Matthew Parris

Labour move for end of reselection

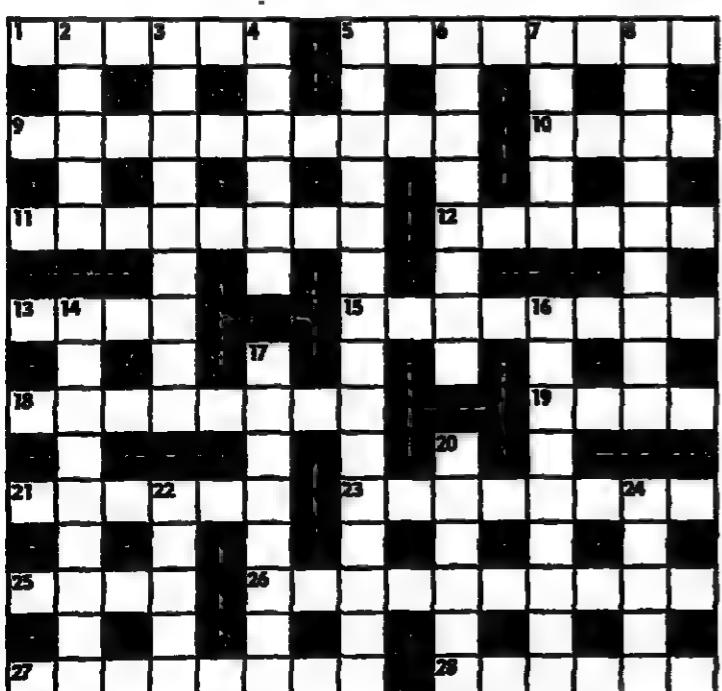
Continued from page 1

considered by Labour's national executive next week, effectively recommends the ending of the electoral college system under which the unions have a vote of up to 40 per cent in any parliamentary selection.

Instead it proposes a full one member-one vote system in which the voice of the unions would be heard by recruiting

ways of preventing MPs being subjected to a time-consuming and personally draining experience if their local parties do not desire it. Options to be considered are the granting of a vote for party members in a constituency on whether or not to hold a reselection conference and an end to the need for a reselection if there is only one candidate, the so-called "shortlist-of-one".

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,246



WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

BOOKBACK

a. A Hungarian killer dog
b. A Dickensian political story
c. The South African verb

ONISCUS

a. A wood louse
b. A semi-precious stone
c. The creosote name

GUITOT

a. An oceanic diving bird
b. A submarine submarine
c. A surgical drill

PUNIGRITION

a. An argentine jewer
b. A pun
c. A Malaysian wild cat

Answers on page 20

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & the south-east

London (within N & S Circ) 791

M25/M26 782

M25/M27/M1-Dartford T 733

M25/M25/26 Dartford T-M25 734

M25 London Orbital only 735

National motorways

West Country 737

Midlands 740

East Anglia 741

North-west England 742

North-east England 743

Scotland 744

Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off-peak).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,245

Solution to Puzzle No 18,245

RESERVES, COSMOS

I AM KING OF PAI

GARDENING

K T N L A R D N

SHORTHAND A S I S L E

H L N E S T T

ANISOCYSTIS

W N X O N B

DANCER, AMNESIA

J T E B T E

ATLAS PARTISANS

S O E F O D N I

PYTHOMANIA ACTON

E J E T C H E E

RISING THEOCRAT

25 In April, I'm becoming a member (4)

26 Bore a title difficult to efface (10)

27 Become ambitious, for instance — about time, for instance (3,5)

28 Brook to supply catchment for river (6)

DOWN

2 Comprehensive showing great understanding (5)

3 Tool can begin effecting repairs from the start (3-6)

4 Bloom with colour coming up among the grass (6)

5 Poetic work surely can't be art when translated (10,5)

6 Much less neglect (3,5)

7 Lights part of letter up (5)

8 Two men of the century's first decade (9)

14 Viewer right to switch to 26 (9)

16 In love, girl married, of all people, Edmund (9)

17 A woman without a husband, some feel, must be warped (4,4)

20 Go on eating one vegetable (6)

21 I save up to become a doctor of law (5)

22 I save up to become a doctor of law (5)

24 Always keeping books in list (5)

Answers on page 20

Solution to Puzzle No 18,245

RESERVES, COSMOS

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RISING THEOCRAT

Solution to Puzzle No 18,245

BUSINESS

SECTION 2

TUESDAY MARCH 20 1990

- BUSINESS AND FINANCE 23-29
- LAW 30-31
- SPRING WEDDINGS 37
- SPORT 38-42

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar	1.6115 (-0.0125)
W German mark	2.7114 (-0.0392)
Exchange index	85.9 (-0.7)
STOCK MARKET	
FT 30 Share	1759.5 (-29.5)
FT-SE 100	2238.0 (-25.9)
USM (Databstream)	143.62 (-0.73)
Market report, page 26	

Booker
up to
£90.5m

Booker, whose interests range from publishing rights to agriculture, made pre-tax profits of £90.5 million (£7.8 million) in the year to end-December.

Turnover rose from £1.84 billion to £2.51 billion, and the final dividend rises from 12p to 13p, payable July 2, to make 19.5p (18p) for the year. The contribution from Booker Entertainment, which includes certain Agatha Christie and James Bond publishing rights, more than tripled.

Tempus, page 24

Rugby rises

Rugby Group, the cement and building products concern, raised pre-tax profits from £27.6 million to £89.8 million in the year to end-December. A 3.6p final takes the total payout from 5.2p to 6.45p.

Tempus, page 24

STOCK MARKETS	
New York:	Dow Jones 2724.32 (-16.90)
Tokyo:	Nikkei Av 51263.24 (-1553.20)
Hong Kong:	Hang Seng 2671.39 (-15.07)
Auckland:	CDS Tenor 1113.8 (-1.9)
Stuttgart AG:	1599.7 (+15.52)
Frankfurt DAX:	1908.77 (-17.08)
Brussels:	6052.50 (-11.1)
Paris All-Share:	523.67 (-2.63)
Zurich SCA Gen:	603.1 (-4.4)
London:	FT-A All-Share 1111.57 (-12.22)
FT-SE 100:	1217.10 (-12.31)
FT Gold Miners:	292.9 (+7.2)
FT Fixed interest:	86.58 (-0.02)
FT Govt Secs:	77.12 (-0.46)
Recent issues:	Page 26

MAIN PRICE CHANGES	
Rises:	
Liberty	435p (+10p)
Falls:	
Unigate	286p (-10p)
Dove & Neuman	545p (-10p)
Euromail Units	547.1p (-10p)
Bass	896p (-10p)
British Land	331p (-10p)
Great Portland	250p (-10p)
Hammerson 'A'	691p (-10p)
Johnson Cleaners	582p (-10p)
Royal	451p (-10p)
Unilever	656p (-10p)
Rank Orgs	774p (-10p)
Standard Chartered	542p (-10p)
Pifco	217p (-10p)
Body Shop	450p (-5p)
Church	345p (-10p)
GUS 'A'	975p (-10p)
Swissair	133p (-10p)
Banfield Int'l	133p (-10p)
Greene King	825p (-10p)
Closing prices	
Bargains	27726
SEAG Volume	324.6m

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 15%
3-month Interbank: 15%
5-month Interbank: 14%
10-year bonds: 10%
Federal Funds: 8.75%
3-month Treasury Bills: 7.53-7.52%
30-year bonds: 9.95-9.99%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: \$1.6115	£: \$1.6117
DM: 10.14	DM: 10.14
Swf: 1.394	Swf: 1.3985
FF: 17.073	FF: 16.985
Yen: 247.37	Yen: 253.53
Index: 85.9	Index: 88.2
ECU: 20.742288	SDR: £0.803927
ECU: 338172	SDR: £0.243984

GOLD

London Fixing:
Am 542.25 \$402.10
close 5402.50-403.00 (\$248.75-
249.25)
New York:
Comex \$402.10-402.60*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) \$18.15bbl (\$18.70)
* Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Australia \$	Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.55	18.80	18.80
Australia \$	20.00	18.80	18.80
Australia \$	2.55	18.80	18.80
Canada \$	1.985	1.885	1.885
Swiss Fr	10.98	10.26	10.26
Swiss Fr	6.90	6.40	6.40
Swiss Fr	9.90	9.42	9.42
Swiss Fr	3.24	2.97	2.97
Swiss Fr	274.75	264.75	264.75
Swiss Fr	13.27	12.37	12.37
Swiss Fr	1.078	1.008	1.008
Swiss Fr	21.00	19.50	19.50
Swiss Fr	200.00	194.50	194.50
Netherlands Gld	3.19	3.01	3.01
Norway Kr	11.08	10.42	10.42
Sweden Kr	4.93	4.26	4.26
Sweden Kr	18.20	17.00	17.00
Sweden Kr	18.35	17.75	17.75
Sweden Kr	2.33	2.29	2.29
Sweden Kr	1.70	1.60	1.60
Yugoslavia Dinar	1.70	1.60	1.60

* Rates are not final and subject to change. Denotes latest trading price.

** Denotes latest trading price.

Final Price Index: 118.5 (January)

** * * * *

THE POUND

By Graham Seargent
Financial Editor

Reforms aimed at serving private investors better are to be proposed to the International Stock Exchange after members admitted that small investors had been losers rather than gainers from the 1986 Big Bang revolution in the way trade is conducted on the exchange.

Mr Nigel Elwes, chairman of a committee set up to review the development of the share market, said: "The retail customer has had a raw deal out of the market since Big Bang." He said the Stock

Exchange was anxious to win back private investors and would have to bring in more automation to cut dealing costs and make the service more user-friendly.

Mr Andrew Hugh Smith, chairman of the ISE, said this might be overstating the case, but admitted that costs for private investors had risen as a result of the changes.

The final report of the Elwes committee, which was welcomed with some reservations by the Stock Exchange Council, recommends that market dealing screens should have a "green strip" which would

publish — anonymously, if necessary — the best price quoted by any market-maker for small lots to be dealt under SAEF, the Exchange's computerized small deals service.

Brokers acting for small investors would have to deal at that price.

They could not give their business preferentially to one (sometimes linked) market-maker regardless of his price quotation for the small investor.

The report also proposes that an experimental central limit order facility (Close) be set up so that investors could

put in an order conditional on price. The order would wait until such a price was available and then be dealt immediately.

Mr Hugh Smith said that, taken with plans to save administration costs by a computerized paperless settlement system, these proposals should cut charges substantially to private investors who wanted a simple dealing service.

But he said these were the most controversial proposals in the report and there would be further consultation with members before any final

decisions were taken.

The committee argued strongly that the most competitive market-maker should be rewarded with the flow of orders if the market's price-making mechanism was not to suffer. As an additional spur to competition, it has proposed regular monitoring of market-makers to see if they are quoting their fair share of the best prices and not artificially avoiding unwanted business.

Market-makers who act passively and fail to meet the standards in any stock would, if necessary, not be allowed to

make a market in that company's stock.

The committee has won support from ISE members for a plan to abolish the classification of shares into alpha, beta and gamma stock for quotation on the electronic system. Instead, market-makers will have to quote a price for a "normal market size" for each share. This would be about 2.5 per cent of the average daily turnover in that stock, but there would be only 12 standard sizes.

The report also recommends rescinding some of the emergency measures taken in

spring 1988 to offset increasing competition that broke out among market-makers after the October 1987 crash. Publication of the details of large deals would be delayed by only 90 minutes instead of being held overnight and the obligations of market-makers to quote prices to each other would be restored within limits.

Mr Elwes and his committee also propose strengthening the central market by bringing in matching deals between principals and cross orders between agency brokers.

End raw deal for small investors, SE told

TUESDAY MARCH 20 1990

Sterling hits record low against mark

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

The mark rose strongly in foreign exchange markets after the big vote in favour of the conservatives in the East German election, with the pound one of its main victims.

Sterling closed at a record low against the mark, down almost 4 pfennigs at DM2.7114. It was also lower against the dollar in spite of late afternoon intervention by the Bank of England in support of sterling against the US currency, closing in London down 1.25 cents at \$1.6115.

The Bank of England's effective exchange rate index fell 0.7 to 85.9, only 0.1 above the lowest point reached since Mr

Nigel Lawson's resignation as Chancellor.

Interest rates in the money market rose 1/4 of a percent, with the key three-month interbank rate at 15.51 per cent though trading was not very active. Gilt yields another 1/4 of a point in medium and long dates and 1/2 point in the short dates, partly as a result of the fall in West German bond prices. In the stock market the FT-SE 100 index fell 25.9 to 2,238.0.

The continued weakness in sterling presents a difficult background against which Mr John Major, the Chancellor, must deliver today's Budget. Though the official view is that the fall is partly a reflection of adverse political com-

ment, if sustained a weaker exchange will tend to be inflationary.

Mr Mark Franklin of Credit Suisse First Boston said: "Today's exchange rate movements have been more a reflection of mark strength than sterling weakness. The mark has been hit by a shock not unlike North Sea oil, and when that happened the pound rose a long way. The budget is more likely to be good than bad for sterling."

The yen weakened still further, falling in European trading against the dollar by Y1.40 to Y153.40, in spite of Bank of England support during the morning by sales of dollars for yen. A steep fall in the Japanese stock market raised the chances that the central bank there would not raise interest rates this week after all. Sterling, however, was weaker still, falling from Y249.15 to about Y247.40.

Herr Elmar Pieroth, the new East German Economics Minister designate, said June 30 is a likely date for monetary union between the two German states. He also confirmed that Ostmarks would be swapped for Deutschmarks at parity.

It is part of the authorities' dilemma that the stronger yen that might result from a one-point jump in interest rates could restore some confidence in Tokyo share prices.

They are also aware that while London and Wall Street have largely ignored Tokyo's fall, there may come a time when markets take fright at the drop in Japanese stock prices, triggering a downward descent in Tokyo.

Mr Stephen Church, head of UBS Phillips & Drew, dismissed it as "another hiccup on a Monday in Tokyo."

Although the yen continued to weaken as well — the dollar soared Y1.05 in Tokyo yesterday to a three-year high of

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Turriff weathers storm in advance to £5.82m

Turriff weathered the storm in the construction industry to raise pre-tax profit from £4.35 million to £5.82 million in the 12 months to end-December. A final dividend of 10.75p takes the total from 11.5p to 15p. Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the company's broker, is looking for pre-tax profits of £7 million in the current year.

A more cautious accounting policy clipped £530,000 off profits for 1989, balanced by a £625,000 exceptional gain from the sale and leaseback of property. Turriff now writes off interest on housing developments as it is incurred, rather than capitalizing it until the project is sold. This, along with increased borrowings and higher rates, boosted interest charges from £740,000 to £1.93 million.

Acorn grows 8.5% fall

Acorn Computer, the educational computer group, jumped 123 per cent to pre-tax £2.52 million on turnover up 22 per cent to £44.9 million. But Acorn, 80 per cent owned by Italy's Olivetti, is not paying a dividend for the third year running even though earnings per share are also up 123 per cent to 3.8p (1.7p).

Refuge hit by losses

Refuge Group, the life assurer, saw a 4 per cent drop in pre-tax profits last year to £14.2 million due to estate agency losses. Losses at the Douglas Allen Spire chain, with 33 branches in Essex, grew to £1.6 million (£127,000 deficit in 1988).

However, Mr Tom Booth, Refuge's chairman, said that business has begun to pick up in 1990. Refuge's profits in 1988 were inflated by a one-off gain from the change in capital gains tax laws. Without this, earnings per share would have risen 18 per cent to 25.5p. The final dividend is being lifted from 14.5 to 17p, making 24.3p, up 16 per cent.

Simon buys US interests

Simon Engineering has acquired Engineering Enterprises and associated partnership interests of Norman, Oklahoma for \$8.45 million in cash and a further \$500,000 deferred for up to 18 months. EEI is a US consultancy business providing environmental engineering services.

Alba declines at half way

Pre-tax profits at Alba, the consumer electronics company, fell from £3 million to £2.74 million in the six months to December after a £271,000 loss from the 40 per cent share of Network One. Earnings per share fell from 5.69p to 5.21p but the interim dividend is held at 1.5p.

IMI once employed 25,000 people making munitions at its main site at Witton, on the outskirts of Birmingham. Its present workforce is a tenth that size and the only ammunition it makes is for shotguns.

The company has been shifting away from its base in non-ferrous metals for decades, but in the eighties it made a concerted effort to move into more sophisticated products and overseas markets. As a result, IMI has virtually no defence exposure, is much less reliant on Britain's construction industry and derives two-fifths of its sales from its foreign operations. Furthermore, its profit margins have widened from 5 to 12 per cent of sales over the last decade.

This recasting of its product portfolio and geographical spread stood IMI in good stead last year. Pre-tax profits rose 16 per cent to £125 million despite a softening in British demand. As acquisitions chipped in only 22.2 million of the rise on balance, earnings per share were left 14 per cent up at 25.2p.

The biggest absolute rise came from its fluid power business, where operating profits rose a fifth to £35.9 million due to buoyant markets in Europe, especially in West Germany. Profits from refined and wrought metals were also up a fifth at £24.4 million, helped by strong demand for titanium from the aircraft engine industry. Despite the slowdown in house-building activity in Britain, profits from building products rose 11 per cent to £25.5 million.

Sir Eric Pountain, the chairman, is confident of further progress in 1990, which analysts interpret to mean profits of £135 million and earnings per share of 27.2p. Although that 8 per cent rise would be only about half the annual growth in earnings achieved since 1985, it could end up looking a stalwart performance.

At 227p, the shares are on a prospective p/e ratio of 8, representing good value in the long-term. However, the company has dropped hints about acquisitions and anything sizeable might hold the shares back for a while.

Agatha Christie helped Booker, whose pre-tax profits were barely alive at half time, to show its seventh consecutive year of profit growth.

Difficulties in its agriculture business had left interim profits at a mere £1.2 million ahead of £30.3 million, despite a 68 per cent increase in turnover, and there were fears of a poor outcome at year-end.

But Agatha Christie works receive special mention in the year-end profits roll call —

ANDREW BOURNE



Helped by Agatha Christie: Jonathan Taylor, of Booker

Booker

Booker holds certain paperback rights — as do the group's food distribution and health products interests. They helped Booker, where Mr Jonathan Taylor is chief executive, post pre-tax profits of £90.5 million, against £78.7 million, on a turnover of £2.51 billion (£1.84 billion). A final dividend of 13p makes 19.5p (18p) for the year.

The first-half problems are still only partly resolved, but there is hope that the salmon operations — which cost Booker £4 million because of the fish war with Norway — will return to profit in 1990.

Gearing was 31.8 per cent (17.8 per cent) at year-end. Loss elimination and organic growth should see pre-tax profits at around £104 million mark in 1990. With the shares at 416p, down 7p, the prospective rating is 9.8 backed by a 6.3 per cent yield.

Like any Agatha Christie, Booker shares on those ratings are hard to put down.

Rugby Group

Rugby Group is adopting a cautious stance as it kicks off the 1989 reporting season for the building-material producers. While the industry as a whole is looking for a 5 per cent fall in cement volumes this year, Mr Andrew Teare, Rugby's managing director, is braced for a fall of as much as 10 per cent, even if much of this can come out of the group's own imports.

When analysts look back over the season in a month's time, the Rugby figures may turn out to be one of the highlights. The company's wide geographical and product spread has meant the odd difficulty — US joinery profits are down this summer.

Tyne Tees downturn held to £720,000

By Martin Waller

Tyne Tees Television Holdings, the North-east England independent television contractor, has revealed the full extent of the downturn in advertising revenue in the second half of last year, with a fall in pre-tax profits to end-December from £7.82 million to £7.10 million.

Also contributing to the downturn was higher-than-usual spending on programme-making, up by more than £10 million to £26.73 million. This would bring in higher profits in the current year, said Mr David Reay, managing director.

"Nineteen eighty-nine was a hiccup, I hope — 1990 looks very good despite revenues being, to say the least, pretty lethargic," he added. The final goes up by 0.5p to 13p, making a total up from 17.25p to 18p.

Revenues rose by just 2.5 per cent in 1989, against an industry average of 6.5 per cent. But after Tyne Tees kept pace with the other ITV stations in the first half, the main fall-off came in the second six months.

The company is forecasting a 4.5 per cent rise this year. Barclays de Zoete Wedd expects £7.2 million pre-tax in 1990, although this is based on a more cautious estimate of growth in net advertising revenue.

Tyne Tees shares, against the market trend, rose 4p to 285p. It kept the rise in staff costs to well below inflation last year and has the benefit of a pay freeze.

It is also aiming to increase revenues for its technical facilities in London and Newcastle to as much as £5 million in the current year and will have the benefit of £1.5 million in overseas sales for the Barrow Taylor Bradford drama *Act of Will*.

COMPANY BRIEFS

COLORGRAPHIC (Fin)

Pre-tax: £3.77m (£2.98m)

EPS: 19.15p (16.34p)

Div: 4.86p, mkg 5.7p

Last year's total dividend was 5.71p. Orders for first two months of 1990 were 17 per cent ahead of last year, with margins firmer.

RPG GROUP (Fin)

Pre-tax: £1.71m (£1.08m)

EPS: 9.39p (5.30p)

Div: 1.6p, mkg 5.2p

Last year's total dividend was 2.2p. Orders for first two months of 1990 were 17 per cent ahead of last year, with margins firmer.

CARBO (Fin)

Pre-tax: £4.55m (£3.83m)

EPS: 20.1p (17.0p)

Div: 4.3p, mkg 6.5p

Last year's total dividend was 5.7p. Sales were ahead 10.7 per cent to £56.5m, with 72 per cent outside Britain.

CIA GROUP (Fin)

Pre-tax: £1.82m (£0.86m)

EPS: 9.14p (5.71p)

Div: Nil

The first dividend will be the interim dividend for 1990, which company expects to pay in October. Turnover £213.8m (£54.2m).

LINREAD (Fin)

Pre-tax: £3.32m (£2.84m)

EPS: 17.87p (15.17p)

Div: 3.9p, mkg 5.7p

Last year's total dividend was 4.75p. About half of output is exported, so minimizing the effect of any economic recession.

HAMILTON OIL (Fin)

Net earnings: \$38.6m

EPS: \$1.38 (£1.04)

Div: N/A

Results are for 1989. Net earnings for 1988 were \$23.3m. Company made a loss of \$0.96m (£1.05m) in the three months to end-December.

EDINBURGH OIL & GAS (Fin)

Pre-tax: £50,000 loss

EPS: 0.39p (0.75p)

Div: Nil (nil)

Final results. Last year's pre-tax loss was £36,000. Board reports that 1990 promises to be the most active year in company's history.

FISHER (JAMES) (Fin)

Pre-tax: £4.23m (£3.05m)

EPS: 13.04p (8.44p)

Div: 3p, mkg 5p (4p)

Turnover £22.78m (£27.59m). Board looks forward to producing satisfactory results for 1990, subject to conditions.

Refuge Group

PRELIMINARY RESULTS 1989

Chairman Tom Booth reports:

"This was a year of strong underlying profits growth with the life assurance results being particularly buoyant. The company has entered the nineties with confidence."

DIVIDENDS UP BY 15.5%

RESULTS

1989 1988

PROFIT FOR YEAR after tax (£m) 12.87 10.88*

DIVIDEND per share

Interim paid 7.25p 6.50p

Proposed final payable

11th May 1990 17.00p 14.50p

24.25p 21.00p

* Before non-recurring profit of £2.71m

Refuge Group PLC

Refuge House, Alderley Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 1PF
Telephone: (0625) 535959
REGISTERED NUMBER: 1854886 ENGLAND

Court
Wassall up
by 54000
Cunning fisc
Ferranti sales
Scholes down 11
Metalrax £7m
S&R steady
BOC funding

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The Annual Report will be published on 18 April. If you would like a copy, please write to: The Secretary, IMI plc., PO Box 216, Birmingham, B6 7BA

4

6

Joint venture will produce marine coatings

Courtaulds plans China plant

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Courtaulds Coatings, the paints and coatings subsidiary of Courtaulds, the industrial materials and chemicals group, is planning to manufacture marine paints in China via a joint venture which it hopes will build to a turnover of £10 million a year.

China has been chosen by Courtaulds because of the size of its shipping fleet and its burgeoning shipbuilding industry. Marine paints, in which Courtaulds is world leader, could also be a bridgehead to other expansion. There are prospects of selling, among other lines, powder

coatings, can coatings and steel coil finishes, said Mr Derek Welch, the Courtaulds Coatings business development general manager.

China is now the cheapest country to have a ship built, and its three shipbuilding centres are increasing capacity. The largest is at Shanghai, which is where the Courtaulds joint venture will be located. China is already in the top six shipbuilding nations, and is increasingly building for foreign owners.

Courtaulds initially will rent a factory but later, probably within three years, plans

to build a plant. At present values it will mean an investment of about £2 million, less than half the cost of constructing a similar one in Europe.

The company, with a 51 per cent stake in the joint venture, has as its partners the Shanghai Kai Lin Paint Manufacturing Company with 29 per cent, and the China Ocean Shipping Company (Cosco) and the China State Shipbuilding Equipment and Material Company (CSSC) with 10 per cent each.

Cosco has the second largest fleet in the world, amounting

to 650 vessels with a total of 14 million tonnes deadweight. This is almost half the total Chinese tonnage.

CSSC is part of China's state shipbuilding corporation, which controls all the main activities of that type in the country.

Kai Lin has been manufacturing Courtaulds marine coatings under licence since 1982. This link, and Courtaulds long experience of trading in China, led the British group into its decision to increase its presence there.

The political upheavals of last summer delayed talks

only a few weeks. Mr Welch said: "Naturally we weighed the effects of that upheaval but it has no impact on this kind of business much of which has an offshore element."

Mr Michael Pragnell, managing director of Courtaulds Coatings, said: "The steady growth of Chinese shipbuilding and the significance of Chinese fleets in world shipping make it logical for us to invest in manufacturing in China."

The coatings division had a turnover in its last full year of £511 million and an operating profit of £43 million.

Wassall up by 540%

Wassall, the aggressive mini-conglomerate which earlier this year succeeded in its £45 million hostile bid for Metal Closures, has beat its own forecasts with a 540 per cent jump in pre-tax profits from £502,000 in the previous 11-month period to £3.23 million for the 1989 year.

Earnings per share rose by 75 per cent to 10.7p (6.1p). A final dividend of 1.45p pushes the total for the year up 120 per cent to 2.2p (1p).

Canning rise

Pre-tax profits at W Canning, the specialty chemicals and industrial distribution group, rose by 28 per cent to £9.03 million in the year to December, on turnover up 35 per cent at £108.7 million. Eps climbed by 2 per cent to 21.7p. The final dividend is 4.35p, making 7.15p (6.5p).

Ferranti sales

Ferranti International has completed two management buyouts, together worth £7 million. Albacon plc paid £6.2 million for the electronic components business and Laser Eosco has acquired Ferranti's laser activities.

Scholes down

Scholes Group, the electrical products manufacturer, reports a drop in interim pre-tax profits from £3.86 million to £2.53. Turnover in the six months to end-December fell from £22.3 million to £21.9 million, while Eps dipped from 7.3p to 4.6p. The interim dividend is unchanged at 2.6p.

Metalrax £7m

Metalrax, the Birmingham-based engineering group, improved pre-tax profits 16 per cent to £7.05 million during 1989. Earnings per share advanced 14 per cent to 8.79p, and a recommended final dividend of 2.84p brings the total to 3.8p (3.16p).

S&R steady

Scott & Robertson, Britain's leading polythene film manufacturer, saw profits up by just £52,000, making £7.8 million pre-tax in 1989. Eps fell to 18.7p (22.6p) but the total dividend is due to rise to 7.5p (7p) after a final of 4.5p (3.8p).

BOC funding

BOC Group is to invest more than \$4 million in modernizing the methane-enrichment and helium plant in Opolanow, Poland, that has exclusively supplied it with liquid helium since 1977.

Birch awaits silver

Philip Birch, former chairman and effective creator of Ward White, the Payless DIY to Halfords group now owned by Boots, has so many job offers piling up on his dining room table that his wife, Liz, is insisting that he buy a filing cabinet to keep them in order. Among the offers – all so far turned down – was a request, just a couple of weeks ago, that he step into the shoes of John Ashcroft and run Coloroll, the beleaguered home furnishings group. "I like a challenge but..." he admitted yesterday. "I'll know when the right offer comes along, as soon as I see it," he added. Meanwhile, he has been keeping himself amused for the past six months – he left Ward White at the end of September – by trying to extract his long-overdue settlement from Boots. Despite assurances from Sir James Blyth, the Boots chairman, last summer that because the takeover battle had been such a clean fight, Birch's settlement would be dealt with in an equally clean and gentlemanly fashion, his words have proved louder than his actions. The matter has, I hear, been left in the hands of lawyer Slaughter & May... where the bill must surely be escalating.

Is there no escape? Americans will soon have to eat hot dogs with "edible-ink images" printed on them. A Chicago firm has developed a technique for printing advertising slogans on hot dogs as they roll off the production line.

IMI primed to expand



Healthy signs: Gary Allen, managing director (left), and Sir Eric Pountain yesterday

A strong balance sheet and low borrowings meant high interest rates would not deter IMI from making acquisitions, said the chairman, Sir Eric Pountain (Jeremy Andrew writes).

By its December year-end, net borrowings had fallen

Quarterly £8m by Blue Arrow

By Neil Bennett

Poor trading in Britain and the United States caused Blue Arrow, the employment services group, to report an 18 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £8.12 million in the three months to January.

Mr Mitchell Fromstein, the chairman, said the fall was caused by the difficult markets in both countries and led to losses in several subsidiaries.

Mr Fromstein said the group is considering selling off any of its businesses, other than Manpower, to cut debts of £200 million.

These include the Brook Street Bureau employment agencies. The 13 per cent rise in the interest charge to £5.52 million was a main factor in the fall in the profits.

Business in Continental Europe and Southern US by contrast remained strong and helped the group's Manpower subsidiary to increase profits by 14 per cent to £13.6 million. Group turnover rose

22 per cent to £437 million due to higher bookings. There is no quarterly dividend.

The British profits varied widely with figures prepared under US accounting regulations. These showed a loss of £9.63 million for the quarter, against a loss of £5.34 million in 1989, due to large goodwill amortization charges.

These are expected to be the first set of figures Blue Arrow publishes under its existing name.

Next week shareholders will vote on whether to rename the group Manpower, after the principal US subsidiary which it acquired in 1987 with the proceeds of the controversial rights issue.

Three-quarters of Blue Arrow's shareholders are now American.

The closure of Blue Arrow's headquarters in the City helped the group reduce central overheads by 39 per cent to £909,000. Details to be introduced from April.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

A fed-up Fayed leaves

The rigours of public scrutiny have clearly proved too much for the House of Fraser's deputy supreme, Ali Fayed – for he is on the brink of leaving London to live in the United States. Much more circumspect than his ebullient elder brother Mohammed, Ali is understood to be fed up with the intense interest generated by the damning DTI report into their purchase of the Harrods' parent in 1985. And there is some suggestion that his move to the US could be

permanent. He has already bought a rambling, but somewhat run-down, house in Connecticut and has hired David Easton, the expensive and fashionable American interior designer, to prepare it for occupation by mid-summer, with August mentioned as a likely moving date. In addition, Ali has been busy choosing a wide range of furniture from Mallett, the New Bond Street antique dealer in which Fayed has a 26 per cent holding.

Return ticket

This week's Leona Helmsley prize for man management goes to Shearson Lehman Hutton for the insensitive handling of its latest round of redundancies. Retail analyst Michael Heery was visiting Next's new Grattan warehouse in Yorkshire when he received a message telling him

to take the next train back to London. Phoning the office from the coach to determine the reason why – and under the attentive gaze of colleagues from other broking houses also on board – he was then bluntly informed that Shearson no longer required his services. A Shearson spokesman admitted that it had not been the ideal way to break the news. The firm later denied he had been told officially on the coach.

Who needs a PR man, when the telephone is so well trained? A fellow reporter, exasperated after waiting at most 10 minutes for the switchboard operator at SG Warburg to answer, asked if they were having technical problems. In reply, the telephone operator apologized and added: "You do know that Warburg's the best bank in the world – we're terribly busy here."

Carol Leonard

Insulation group leaps 70%

By Philip Pangalos

Pre-tax profits at Sheffield Insulations Group, the distributor of thermal insulation and related products, which came to the market last May, surged by 70 per cent to £5.48 million in the year to end-December.

This follows improved sales at nearly every branch, better margins and market share. The figures also include an exceptional credit of £732,000 on gains from property sales.

SIG, the market leader with a share of more than 25 per cent, increased turnover by 6 per cent to £107.6 million. Earnings per share rose by 40 per cent to 17.4p, and by 22 per cent to 14.9p, excluding exceptional items. A dividend of 3.5p (nil), as forecast, is equivalent to 4.95p on an annualized basis.

Mr Norman Adsett, the chairman, whose father started the original business in 1956, expects sales to benefit by at least 5 per cent from the new Building Regulations, to be introduced from April.

Trews time

It is well known that Scottish patriotism runs deep, but observers were nevertheless a little taken aback when the entire 12-man contingent from County NatWest Wood-Mac, at the eleventh annual Scottish Oils Club dinner in Edinburgh last week – including the firm's chairman and chief executive, Howard MacDonald – arrived wearing kilts. They would, however, be brave men, indeed, if they were to venture into County's new Bishopsgate building thus attired. For sources from within tell me that the partially occupied building – the equities division moves in next month and corporate finance a couple of weeks after that – has been experiencing one or two operational difficulties. Not only has the central heating-cum-air conditioning system been playing up, forcing some employees to keep their coats on all day, despite the mild weather, but in one area of the premises there has been an outbreak of fleas. So badly bitten are some employees that Sister Read, the nurse in charge of the firm's old offices in Drapers Gardens, has been summoned to administer TCA. And the exhibition of these bites has apparently become a popular sport in City watering holes. "Builders using one small room had left food lying about," explains a spokesman, trying to play down the affair. "Rodents came in, carrying fleas." The problem has, I am assured, now been resolved.

Carol Leonard

COMMENT David Brewerton

Annual anachronism comes round again

In Germany, the Deutschmark is joyously but illogically celebrating the prospect of marriage to the Ostmark, which will put strains on the Federal Republic's ability to keep the lid on inflation, and is likely to push up interest rates and increase the money supply.

In Japan, the equity market is down by a fifth this year already, and the yen is longing for interest rates, last adjusted upwards on Christmas Day, to be raised again. The Japanese are playing the game of waiting until they can raise the rates without it appearing to the world that they have been pushed into it.

In Britain, the financial markets wait for the first Budget from John Major: or do they? Sterling's weakness has less to do with economics than with politics. The opinion polls have painted the currency into a corner from which Mr Major cannot, no matter what surprises he springs from the battered box, engineer its escape. The markets will wait for the pain to dry, by which time the full force of voters' discontent will have been registered in the polling booths of Mid-Stiffs.

In fact, the Budget is more a media event than economic reality. It is the tone which is important, rather than the content. Foreign holders of sterling assets do need reassurance, especially important when we are running a significant current account deficit, as the previous Chancellor acknowledged at the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund in Washington last year.

But although that ring of confidence has to be established, does that mean specific targets need to be set out? Virtually every forecast made a year ago has proved inaccurate: inflation, the balance of payments, the public sector debt repayment, and so on. Every missed forecast can be seen as evidence that the "economy is off course," and gives the foreign exchange operators the opportunity to pit their resources against the Government's resolve, in the knowledge that the route plan cannot be changed without loss of face.

A complex economy needs to be managed by broad objectives rather than according to specific forecasts, where failure is expected and success no more than mere chance. While changes in fiscal policy form an essential part of the Budget structure, these could be used to demonstrate tone and direction. Reforms to taxation, though necessary, are not an integral part of economic management. They are usually a side issue, and could be introduced anytime.

One year, a Chancellor, possibly even Mr Major, will be brave enough to say that the art of economic management

has moved on, leaving the annual Budget behind. Not this year though. The newspapers have their Budget special supplements planned and the electronic media have assembled their panels of pundits. Mr Major will be the first Chancellor to present his Budget before the television cameras, and every flick of the eyelids, every twitch of the mouth, every sip from the glass, will be scrutinized.

Mum on the creche

Mr Major, meanwhile, has almost managed to avoid the worst nightmare of Chancellors, the Budget leak. He has been seen sniffing flowers in his constituency and eating ice creams in Whitehall. He has discussed cricket. His wife Norma did admit to the *Sunday Express* that she has shed tears due to the pressures her husband's long nights at the Treasury. A complex Budget, then? Maybe, but hardly a leak.

What are passed off as leaks are invariably items of mere deduction, which is why contrary speculation frequently appears dressed as fact. Over the weekend, *The Observer* said the Chancellor would not increase tax thresholds in line with inflation while excise duties on petrol, tobacco and alcohol would remain the same. *The Sunday Times*, by contrast, reported that tax allowances would rise with inflation but that excise duties would be increased. Other firm media predictions include: a £100 weekly allowance to look after elderly relatives from the *Mail on Sunday*; a rise in the ceiling for mortgage interest relief from £30,000 to £40,000 or abolition of stamp duty for some or all housebuyers from the *Daily Express* and *Today*; a tax on cars without catalytic converters (*Financial Times*) or higher taxes on leaded petrol (*Sunday Express*); and general agreement of more tax on company cars.

In fact, demand for Budget leaks – or at least what may appear to be leaks – is met with vigour undiminished by the past experience that most of them turn out to be wrong. But if there are leaks it is the loyal Opposition's self-imposed duty to expose them. This year Miss Hilary Armstrong, Labour's spokeswoman on primary education, claimed to have detected a crude one that the Chancellor would abolish tax on creches at work. The information came from a BBC camera crew which said it had been told to expect a photo call on the day. Miss Armstrong was publicly incensed. "This can only be seen as a breach of Budget security," she said. Surely not.

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No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Bourne End	Property	
2	Brown Rand	Industrials A-D	
3	Union Disc	Banks, Discount	
4	Camford Eng	Industrials A-D	
5	Genstar	Industrials E-K	
6	Western Motor	MOTOR, AIRCRAFT	
7	Bank Of Ireland	Banks, Discount	
8	Clayton Son	Industrials A-D	
9	Rockware	Industrials L-R	
10	Computer People	Electricals	
11	Fish-RS	Paper, Print, Adv.	
12	Fine Art Dev	Drapery, Stores	
13	Ents	Building, Roads	
14	Ocean Group	Transport	
15	Union Square	Property	
16	Metralex	Industrials L-R	
17	Old Scenic	Electricals	
18	Allied Irish	Banks, Discount	
19	Type Tech TV	Leisure	
20	Fitzwilliam	Industrials E-K	
21	Gent SR	Drapery, Stores	
22	Wood (Arthur)	Industrials S-Z	
23	Alba	Electricals	
24	Trusty Ind	Newspapers, Pub.	
25	Macro 4	Electricals	
26	Standwick	Paper, Print, Adv.	
27	Clarke (H)	Transport	
28	Dorset Hides	Property	
29	Mersey Docks	Transport	
30	Ents	Industrials E-K	
31	AB Elect	Electricals	
32	Hawker Siddeley	Property	
33	BM Gp	Industrials A-D	
34	Bowthorpe	Electricals	
35	Fisher (James)	Transport	
36	LWT CP	Leisure	
37	Guinness (Int)	Breweries	
38	T & N (Int)	Industrials S-Z	
39	Ranger	Oil, Gas	
40	Fobet	Industrials E-K	
41	SD-Solco	Electricals	
42	Fisons	Chemical, Plas.	
43	Rectyl Useful	Leisure	
44	Turiff	Building, Roads	
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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals in the weekly dividend of £3,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TEST

BRITISH FUNDS

NAME	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Per cent	Yield
SHORTS (Under Five Years)							
845 870 Exch 21/2 1990	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 1990	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 1991	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 1992	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 1993	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 1994	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 1995	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 1996	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 1997	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 1998	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 1999	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2000	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2001	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2002	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2003	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2004	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2005	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2006	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2007	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2008	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2009	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2010	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2011	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2012	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2013	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2014	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2015	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2016	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2017	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2018	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2019	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2020	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2021	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2022	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2023	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2024	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2025	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2026	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2027	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2028	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2029	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2030	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2031	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2032	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2033	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2034	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2035	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2036	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2037	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2038	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2039	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2040	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2041	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2042	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2043	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2044	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2045	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2046	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2047	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2048	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2049	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2050	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2051	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2052	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2053	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2054	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2055	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2056	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2057	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2058	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2059	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2060	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2061	94			100	1.00	1.00	
845 870 Tres 2062	94			100</			

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

UNLISTED SECURITIES

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

THIRD MARKET

ICIS-LDR Group

agreement, prices eased substantially. Product price very limited demand and in line with collapsing futures.		IPE FUELS	
CRUDE OILS/assessed (\$/bbl FOB)			
Brent Phys	17.86	-55	
15 day Apr	17.95	-50	
15 day May	18.25	-40	
WTI Apr	19.80	-60	
WTI May	19.95	-50	
PRODUCTS Buy/sell \$/MT.			
Spot CIF NW Euro - prompt delivery			
Prem Gas 15	-3	210-213	-2
Gasoil EEC	-2	164-165	-3
Non 1H Apr	-2	158-159	-2
Non 1H May	-3	154-155	-2
3.5 Fuel Oil	-3	78-81	-3
Naphtha	-2	160-171	-2
BIFFEX			
GNI Freight Futures Dry Cargo (\$10/bd)			
Mar 90 HI 1590-1588 Low		Close 1580	
Apr 90 HI 1597-1585 Low		Close 1588	
Jul 90 HI 1359-1350 Low		Close 1358	
Oct 90 HI 1460-1460 Low		Close 1460	
Vol 171 lots		Open interest 4657	
LONDON FUTURES			
Mth O			
Apr			
May			
Jun			
Jul			
Aug			
Sep			
Oct			
Vol			
BRENT			
May			
Jun			
Jul			

3 V. 15.141 per cent.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES									
Open	High	Low	Close	Vol	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
3									
2244.5	2271.0	2220.0	2258.0	3636					
2250.0	2212.0	2240.0	2212.0	271					
with Sterling									
84.67	84.82	84.79	84.81	2077					
84.61	84.91	84.51	84.59	17834					
with Eurodollar									
91.44	91.49	91.43	91.46	2505					
91.23	91.31	91.21	91.29	4026					
with Euro DM									
91.59	91.64	91.58	91.62	2408					
90.96	91.05	90.94	91.07	2671					
Previous open interest 22270									
2242.0									
2250.0									
Three month ISCU									
Mar 80 —	88.17	88.20	88.17	88.20					
Jun 80 —	88.79	88.83	88.79	88.82					
US Treasury Bond									
Jun 80 —	88.04	88.27	88.04	88.27					
Jun 81 —	88.14	88.05	88.14	88.05					
Long Gilt									
Jun 80 —	88.14	88.05	88.14	88.05					
Japanese Govt Bond									
Jul 80 —	88.48	88.65	88.48	88.65					
German Govt Bond									
Jun 80 —	88.40	88.14	88.40	88.14					
Sep 80 —	88.53	88.75	88.53	88.75					
Previous open interest 58282									
82.40									
82.40									
82.55									
82.55									
7									
COMMODITIES									
LONDON FOX									
COCOA	AMT Futures								
Mar 687-885	Dec 752-751								
May 702-701	May 773-789								
Jul 714-718	May 790-789								
Sep 729-729	Vol 7576								
COFFEE	AMT Futures								
Mar 875-885	Nov 884-883								
May 885-880	Jan 886-880								
Jul 884-882	Mar 715-710								
Sep 872-870	Vol 5386								
SUGAR	C Commodity								
FOB	Vol 3932								
May 3534-3530	Dec 3353-3350								
Aug 3540-3543	Mar 314.0-313.0								
Oct 340.0-338.8	May 311.0-308.0								
LONDON GRAN FUTURES									
WHEAT close (50t)	Vol 132								
Mr 111.00	My 113.10	Jn 115.15	Mr 115.15						
Sp 106.30	Sp 109.30	Je 113.0	Sp 109.30						
BARLEY close (50t)	Vol 82								
Mr 103.85	My 106.45	Sp 103.35	Mr 103.85						
Nv 108.65	Jn 110.40	Mr 113.10	Nv 108.65						
SOYABEAN	AMT Futures								
Apr 120.0-120.6	Oct 125.0-125.5								
Jun 122.0-122.5	Dec 129.0-132.0								
Aug 124.0-124.5	Feb 132.0-135.0								
LONDON METAL EXCHANGE									
Official prices/volume previous day									
(\$/tonne)	Cash								
Rudolf Wolff									
Copper Ode A	1681.0-1682.0	1680.0-1688.0	1682.0						
Lead	708.0-800.0	701.0-807.0	702.0	114500					
Zinc HI Ode*	1680.0-1710.0								
Zinc Spec HI*	1775.0-1780.0	1622.0-1624.0	1622.0	10625					
Tin*	8350-8360	8450-8480	8485						
Aluminium HI*	1642.0-1643.0	1622.0-1638.0	1638.0	580000					
Nickel*	10100-10125	9650-9700	12305						
† (Cent per Troy oz.) * (\$ per tonne)									
LONDON MEAT FUTURES (kg)									
Live Pig Contract									
Mr 118.0	Open 119.0	Close 118.0	(/kg hr)						
Apr	119.5	119.0	88.6 (p)						
Jun	118.2	118.0	88.1 (+/-)						
Aug	114.5	114.3	88.1 (-/+)						
Oct	118.0	118.0	Eng/Wid (p)						
Live Cattle Contract			Eng/Wid (+/-)						
Mr 112.0	Open 112.5	Close 112.0	(p)						
Apr	112.0	112.5	Scotland (p)						
Jun	114.0	114.0	Scotland (p)						
Aug	115.0	115.0	Scotland (+/-)						
MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION									
Arbge fatstock prices at representative									
markets on March 19									
Pig Sheep Cattle									
88.10	234.35	111.80							
+1.28	-5.81	+0.72							
+1.2	-28.1	-25.5							
98.24	225.50	112.00							
+1.44	-6.59	+0.71							
+3.7	-25.8	-18.5							
91.58	222.45	115.80							
-2.03	-24.4	-18.5							

London Metal Exchange

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE
Official prices/volumes previous day *Rudolf Wren*

after لا صل

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

	Series	Ask	Offer	Out	Price	Put	Oct
Ald Lyon	420	27	39	32	9	17	21
	450	27	39	32	9	17	21
ASCO	100	12	19	12	4	5%	17
	120	20	25	20	5	7	17
Boots	200	25	37	29	15	12	13
	240	31	38	33	16	12	13
Boots	200	25	37	29	15	12	13
Boat Av.	200	25	37	29	15	12	13
Bell Cos.	200	13	17	17	13	14	17
	250	17	21	17	13	14	17
BP	70	17	19	13	13	15	17
	100	35	49	38	14	16	17
BT	200	25	37	29	15	12	13
	250	31	38	33	16	12	13
Brit Steel	1200	45	65	50	57	50	55
	1400	50	65	50	57	50	55
C & W	150	8	12	11	11	11	12
	200	12	17	17	13	14	17
Open Union	500	25	45	38	35	35	35
	1000	45	65	50	57	50	55
Centraid	500	1	1	1	1	1	1
	1000	1	1	1	1	1	1
GIO	350	8	12	11	11	11	12
	500	12	17	17	13	14	17
Grand Met.	120	19	25	22	25	24	25
	150	25	32	25	28	25	28
	200	31	38	33	35	35	35
ICL	1100	50	65	50	57	50	55
	1500	50	65	50	57	50	55
Kingfisher	250	16	22	19	23	23	25
	350	21	28	21	25	21	25
Ladbrokes	250	18	25	21	25	21	25
	350	24	32	25	28	21	25
Salvation	200	12	17	17	13	17	17
	250	17	22	17	13	17	17
Shell	200	4	17	17	20	18	18
	250	12	17	17	20	18	18
Small Books	500	11	15	15	15	15	15
	1000	15	21	15	15	15	15
Standard	100	24	27	27	1	3	4
	150	24	27	27	1	3	4
Trident	500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	700	34	41	35	35	35	35
	1000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	1500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	2000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	2500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	3000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	3500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	4000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	4500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	5000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	5500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	6000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	6500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	7000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	7500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	8000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	8500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	9000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	9500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	10000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	10500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	11000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	11500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	12000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	12500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	13000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	13500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	14000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	14500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	15000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	15500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	16000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	16500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	17000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	17500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	18000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	18500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	19000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	19500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	20000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	20500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	21000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	21500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	22000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	22500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	23000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	23500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	24000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	24500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	25000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	25500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	26000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	26500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	27000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	27500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	28000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	28500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	29000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	29500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	30000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	30500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	31000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	31500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	32000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	32500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	33000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	33500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	34000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	34500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	35000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	35500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	36000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	36500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	37000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	37500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	38000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	38500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	39000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	39500	34	41	35	35	35	35
	40000	34	41	35	35	35	35
	40500	34	41	35	35	35	35

THE LAW

Look more closely at video

A recent television documentary, *Hilary in Hiding*, focused on an American case in which a mother, Dr Elizabeth Morgan, alleged that her former husband had sexually abused their daughter, Hilary.

A video of Hilary at the age of four being questioned by Dr Morgan about the alleged abuse was not permitted to be shown in civil proceedings concerning a case rights to the child, who was in her mother's custody.

The judge refused to deny access to the father, but rather than comply with the court order, Dr Morgan went to jail for two years and her daughter was sent into hiding with her grandparents in New Zealand. The case is now being fought there.

It might well be thought that, in a situation where the foremost issue should have been the child's safety, any evidence with a bearing on the matter should have been seen by the judge.

But where criminal proceedings are concerned and the liberty of the accused is at stake, different issues arise. In suspected cases of child abuse, it is increasingly the practice for a police officer and a social worker to interview the child immediately and for that interview to be video-recorded. If the interview is conducted prop-



Video-recorded evidence should be made admissible, Jennifer Temkin argues

erly and fairly without prompting, the video-recording of it constitutes an invaluable record.

Yet such videos constitute inadmissible evidence and cannot generally be shown in a criminal trial, whether or not the child is called as a witness.

The Advisory Group on Video-Recorded Evidence, in its report to the Home Secretary last December, strongly recommended that the exclusion of videos — which stems from the antiquated and much-criticized hearsay rule — should be removed.

The group, which was solely concerned with criminal proceedings, proposes that whether or not a video should be admitted in court should be determined by a Crown Court judge at a pre-trial application. He would be helped by a code of practice on how, when, where and by whom interviews should be conducted and recorded.

The judge would not be compelled to admit any video which complied with the code of practice, nor to exclude any which did not; and he should exclude the video in its entirety only if it

would be contrary to the interests of justice to admit it, giving his reasons in writing.

The video of Hilary was not made for or intended to be used in criminal proceedings. Nor does the proposed code contemplate that a videoed interview of the kind conducted by Dr Morgan be admissible as evidence in criminal proceedings in this country.

The advisory group had in mind that joint investigation teams of social workers and police should take charge of child sexual abuse cases and that the code would stipulate that the interview generally be conducted by a police officer or social worker, or both.

Occasionally, it might be conducted by someone else involved professionally with the welfare of children, such as a doctor, nurse, teacher or health worker. But interviews by relatives were certainly not envisaged, and the report discourages the presence of parents at the interview, except where necessary in the case of a small child.

It is proposed that police and social workers carrying out interviews should be specially and

jointly trained. The training would include child psychology and cognitive development, instruction in the law on crimes of violence and sexual offences against children, and the law of evidence relating to rules and procedures for examining witnesses in court. Communication skills would also be emphasized.

All of this was thought to be essential, because it is proposed that the video substantially replace the examination in chief of the child in court.

The interviewer would thus be taught to pose questions in a way acceptable in the court-room and to avoid, where possible, leading questions.

The seriousness of the matter and the importance of telling the truth would be emphasized to the child.

Hilary's account was delivered with the substantial help of anatomically correct dolls. The advisory group recommends that the code stipulate that such dolls be used with extreme caution in interviews, and generally not at all

until after disclosure of abuse has taken place.

Interviews would take place in a purpose-built suite; many such exist already in hospitals. Suites set up by the police for rape victims could also be used.

The equipment, ideally involving two cameras, should be of high quality, capable of clearly recording the words, gestures and facial expressions of all the parties in the room and should be able to note the time and date of the interview.

This should take place as soon as practicable after an offence has been reported. A medical examination might first be needed, and inter-agency consultation would invariably be essential, but the delay should not exceed several days. The recorded interview should be shown to the alleged offender as soon as possible.

These proposed standards are exacting. But the code is meant to give guidance only and to be interpreted in a common sense way. Clearly, however, for a video to be admissible in criminal proceedings, it would generally have to have been made with that end in view. Other videoed interviews, even if as eloquent as Dr Morgan's, would be far less likely to pass muster.

• Professor Temkin was a member of the Advisory Group on Video-Recorded Evidence.



Mother's sacrifice: Dr Elizabeth Morgan, shown with her daughter, Hilary, spent two years in jail rather than let Hilary visit her father

Employment Appeal Tribunal

Law Report March 20 1990

Court of Appeal

Power to review industrial tribunal

Certificate was not conclusive

Adams and Another v West Sussex County Council
Before Mr Justice Wood, Mr K. Graham and Miss A. P. Vale [Judgment March 14]

The Employment Appeal Tribunal had no general authority to review an industrial tribunal's exercise of discretion on interlocutory matters but could only interfere where there was a misdirection of law or the result was one which no reasonable tribunal could have reached.

The decision of the appeal tribunal in *Medallion Holidays Ltd v Birch* ([1983] ICR 578) was to be preferred to that in *British Library v Palyza* ([1984] ICR 504).

The appeal tribunal so held when giving their reasons for dismissing an appeal by the employees. Mr Maureen Adams and Mrs Margaret Rayner, from a decision of the chairman of a Brighton industrial tribunal in December 1989, refusing

their request for discovery of documents relating to their claim for compensation for unfair dismissal against their employers, West Sussex County Council.

Mr Nicholas Vinsall for the employees; Mr Patrick Elias for the employers.

MR JUSTICE WOOD said that the employees had sought an order requiring the employers to adduce evidence which they considered necessary to dispose fairly of their claim. The chairman of the industrial tribunal refused their request.

On appeal it was argued that although the chairman had not misdirected himself in law the employers were not limited to showing an error of law but could argue the matter afresh. For that proposition counsel cited the decision of the appeal tribunal in *British Library v Palyza*.

In his argument to the con-

cerning an interlocutory order of an industrial tribunal of a chairman sitting alone there are three issues for the appeal tribunal: (i) was the order made within the powers given to the tribunal; (ii) had the discretion been exercised within guiding legal principles (for example, as to confidential documents in discovery cases) and (iii) could the exercise of the discretion be attacked on the principle that it was beyond what any reasonable tribunal could have decided?

That approach followed from the reasoning of Mr Justice Arnold in *Baileck v James Lane (Turf Accountants) Ltd* ([1979] ICR 778).

The appeal tribunal preferred the view stated in *Medallion Holidays* to that in the *British Library* case. The appeal would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Free Representation Unit; Mr E. M. Holdsworth, Chichester.

Mr Elias relied upon the reasoning of Mr Justice Arnold in *Baileck v James Lane (Turf Accountants) Ltd* ([1979] ICR 778) in giving its decision in interlocutory proceedings, an industrial tribunal was exercising its discretion but that discretion had to be exercised within the powers given to the industrial tribunal on that issue and within the relevant legal principles which had been evolved through decisions of appellate courts.

It seemed desirable that the same principle should apply to interlocutory appeals as for final appeals.

There was no dispute that the relevant accommodation would be let in accordance with paragraph 4(a).

What was in dispute was the extent of the accommodation provided in the neighbourhood by the housing authority for persons with needs similar to

those of the tenant and his family. Paragraph 3(1)(a) of the Schedule I task of the housing authority in providing a certificate and his own under paragraph 5(1)(a).

Mr Timothy Hills for the claimants: Mr Martin Steen for the plaintiffs.

MR JUSTICE WOOLF said that the plaintiffs contended that they were entitled to possession because they were providing alternative accommodation which was suitable at East Cottage, approximately 400 yards away from Nash End Farm.

The judge had made a clear finding in favour of the plaintiffs on the basis of a certificate issued by the local housing authority on April 5, 1989. The validity of that certificate was at the heart of the appeal.

In order to obtain an order for possession the plaintiffs had to comply with section 96(1)(a) of the Rent Act 1977. That meant that the court had to be satisfied that suitable alternative accommodation was available and it was reasonable to make the order. Paragraph 4 of Part IV of Schedule 15 to the Act was relevant.

There was no dispute that the relevant accommodation would be let in accordance with paragraph 4(a).

What was in dispute was the extent of the accommodation provided in the neighbourhood by the housing authority for persons with needs similar to

provision did not take effect. The judge had elided two tasks, that of the housing authority in providing a certificate and his own under paragraph 5(1)(a).

The further question arose whether the certificate complied with paragraph 3(2). Mr Hills submitted that the certificate had to be a certificate of the housing authority and it had to state the extent of the accommodation afforded by dwelling-houses provided by the authority to meet the needs of tenants with families of such number as were specified in the certificate.

The certificate which was issued stated: "This is to certify that, within the terms of paragraph 3(1)(a) of Part IV of Schedule 15 to the Rent Act 1977, the above property is suitable for families of the size of the tenant's being conclusive evidence of the extent of council accommodation offered within the neighbourhood within paragraph 5(2) of Schedule 15 to the Rent Act 1977."

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal in the claimants' favour. Mr and Mrs Robert Cooks from a decision of Justice McLeod in *Sutton County Court* on October 5, 1989, whereby he had granted an order for possession of 2 Nash End Farm Cottage, Bisley, to the plaintiffs, Elvert Anthony Willoughby Jones and

David Courtney Masey, executors of the will of Viplet Mary Wilby, deceased. The court remitted the matter to Stroud County Court for rehearing.

Mr Timothy Hills for the claimants: Mr Martin Steen for the plaintiffs.

MR JUSTICE WOOLF said that the plaintiffs contended that they were entitled to possession because they were providing alternative accommodation which was suitable at East Cottage, approximately 400 yards away from Nash End Farm.

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MR JUSTICE WOOLF said that the plaintiffs contended that they were entitled to possession because they were providing alternative accommodation which was suitable at East Cottage, approximately 400 yards away from Nash End Farm.

The judge had made a clear finding in favour of the plaintiffs on the basis of a certificate issued by the local housing authority on April 5, 1989. The validity of that certificate was at the heart of the appeal.

In order to obtain an order for possession the plaintiffs had to comply with section 96(1)(a) of the Rent Act 1977. That meant that the court had to be satisfied that suitable alternative accommodation was available and it was reasonable to make the order. Paragraph 4 of Part IV of Schedule 15 to the Act was relevant.

There was no dispute that the relevant accommodation would be let in accordance with paragraph 4(a).

What was in dispute was the extent of the accommodation provided in the neighbourhood by the housing authority for persons with needs similar to

those of the tenant and his family. Paragraph 3(1)(a) of the Schedule I task of the housing authority in providing a certificate and his own under paragraph 5(1)(a).

The further question arose whether the certificate complied with paragraph 3(2). Mr Hills submitted that the certificate had to be a certificate of the housing authority and it had to state the extent of the accommodation afforded by dwelling-houses provided by the authority to meet the needs of tenants with families of such number as were specified in the certificate.

The certificate which was issued stated: "This is to certify that, within the terms of paragraph 3(1)(a) of Part IV of Schedule 15 to the Rent Act 1977, the above property is suitable for families of the size of the tenant's being conclusive evidence of the extent of council accommodation offered within the neighbourhood within paragraph 5(2) of Schedule 15 to the Rent Act 1977."

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal in the claimants' favour. Mr and Mrs Robert Cooks from a decision of Justice McLeod in *Sutton County Court* on October 5, 1989, whereby he had granted an order for possession of 2 Nash End Farm Cottage, Bisley, to the plaintiffs, Elvert Anthony Willoughby Jones and

David Courtney Masey, executors of the will of Viplet Mary Wilby, deceased. The court remitted the matter to Stroud County Court for rehearing.

Mr Timothy Hills for the claimants: Mr Martin Steen for the plaintiffs.

MR JUSTICE WOOLF said that the plaintiffs contended that they were entitled to possession because they were providing alternative accommodation which was suitable at East Cottage, approximately 400 yards away from Nash End Farm.

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THE LAW

Taking the ice out of divorce

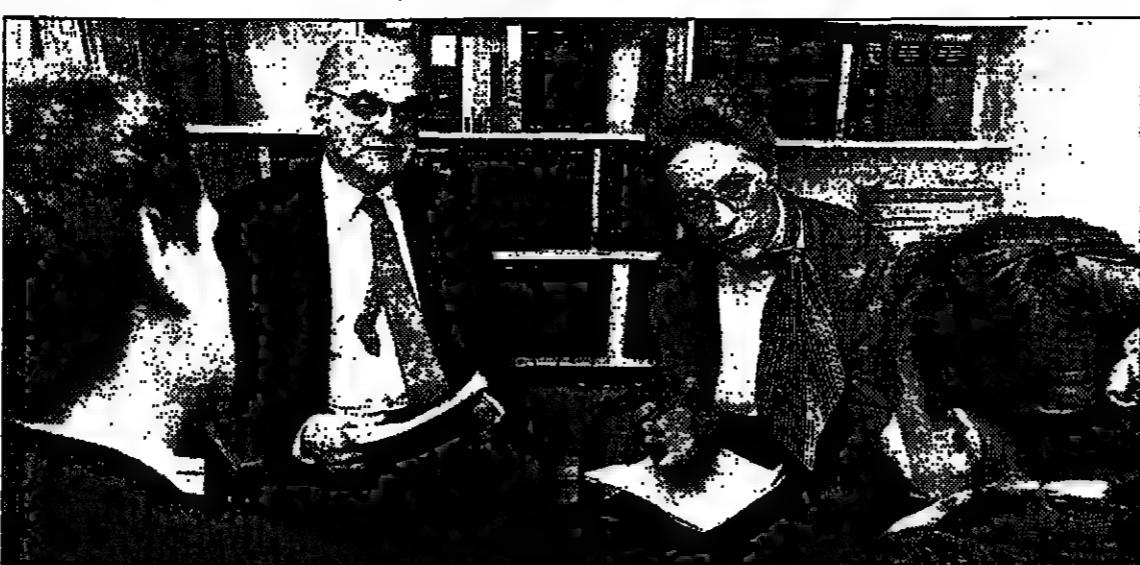
Edward Fennell
reports on a group
of lawyers who
strive to save
failing marriages

Will the Lord Chancellor's proposal last week to give more emphasis to reconciliation in divorce cases be bad for lawyers' business? Certainly, many solicitors have an unrepentant commercial attitude to their matrimonial work. For example, an East Anglian lawyer boasted to me about the huge growth in divorce in his area which had more than balanced out the decline in conveyancing. "Long may it continue," he added.

While the adversarial nature of most divorces may have boosted fees it has done little for the image of lawyers. Judging from the bitter comments on the BBC Radio 4's *PM* programme last week, solicitors are viewed more as the murderers of marriage than its undertakers.

In spite of this, there is a small but growing band of lawyers — members of the Family Mediators' Association — who can demonstrate real commitment to bringing husband and wife together.

Set up in December 1988, the FMA aims to help couples, at any



Counsellors: Jack and Rita Bleiman, of the Family Mediators' Association, help a couple heading for divorce

stage of separation or divorce, to reach agreement in a non-adversarial way. Working in conjunction with lay people, the FMA's 100 or so solicitors seek to resolve basic issues between couples before they come to court.

"Divorce is not a winning game," says Jack Bleiman, of the London firm Beckman & Beckman and a founding member of the FMA. "Unlike most kinds of legal action, there are no winners in divorce, only losers. All you can do is try to make the best of a bad job, particularly where children are involved."

In essence, the FMA provides an

"This is not a quick fix solution," Mr Bleiman says, "although where children are not involved it is certainly less complicated. We normally need between three and six sessions with each couple, but our success depends on large part on the attitudes of the man and woman before they arrive." In no way does the FMA seek to replace the role of the couple's solicitors. But by acting as conciliators the FMA aims to forestall the slide into outright war which beheads most divorces.

"At the end of each conciliation we prepare a report which details the agreements which have been

reached and this report is then sent to the respective solicitors for their consideration," Mr Bleiman says. "If they are unhappy with it, they are free to reopen discussions."

In general, Mr Bleiman feels that solicitors are ill-equipped to deal with the sensitive issue of children. That is why, where possible, the FMA tries to involve the children directly in the discussions, so that they can express their own wishes.

It is also invaluable to have the participation of the lay person, normally a qualified counsellor. "I think that our real strength is that we have a combination of skills and backgrounds in our lay person and lawyer. They act as a team to provide complementary skills and knowledge," Mr Bleiman says.

Charging an average rate of £120 per hour for a couple, the FMA is not designed to be a big money spinner for the lawyers involved. "In general, solicitors join the FMA because it enhances the quality of their professional life. We are finding that younger lawyers in particular gain a tremendous sense of satisfaction if they succeed in helping to achieve an agreement."

Although only about half the country is covered by the FMA, there is great demand to go on its training courses. Lord Mackay's comments last week may well give it the additional boost it needs.

For more information, contact Lisa Parkinson, Director FMA, The Old House, Recary Gardens, Henbury, Bristol BS10 7AQ.

INNS AND OUTS

We are powerfully reminded of Britain's poor record on refugees and people seeking asylum by Rabia Janjua, a 27-year-old Pakistani mother of two, who faces death by stoning or imprisonment and 30 lashes under Pakistan's Hudood Ordinance if the Home Office carries out its decision to remove her as an illegal immigrant. A removal order carries no right of appeal, although it can be lifted at the Home Office Minister's discretion. The Home Office, however, has refused to consider Mrs Janjua's case, even though she could be sentenced to death, has two children aged four years and five months, speaks no English, cannot read and write her mother tongue and has suffered a history of violence from her husband. He has now fled the country with her documents.

Alf Dubs, director of the British Refugee Council, has recently spoken out on Britain's record on refugees — we take far fewer than any other prosperous Western European country, there is a worrying increase in forced repatriations among people whose fear of persecution is well founded, and refugees who are admitted are often granted "exceptional leave to remain", not refugee status, which prevents them being joined by their families. Mrs Janjua's case has been taken up by Bobby Chan, a lawyer at the Central London Law Centre, who was approached by the Asian community organization, Southall Black Sisters. Mr Chan has had to deal with three separate removal orders against Mrs Janjua in the past three weeks and feels the case is not being helped by apparent communication breakdowns at the Home Office. He has now applied for Mrs Janjua's husband in her affairs, however, may prejudice her application, which anyway relies on the discretion of the minister, Timothy Rosten.

A project providing specialist legal services in public and administrative law has been set up with grants from the European Community, the Bar and the Law Society. The project will employ solicitors and other specialists to conduct research and to undertake litigation on referral from advice agencies. The centre's first directors include Stephen Sedley, QC, Kate Markus, of Brent Law Centre, and Richard de Friend, of Kent University's legal department. Ms Markus expects the centre to deal with cases arising, for example, from cuts to local authority services, and to be able to advise on legal duties, financial implications and methods of enforcement. Mr Sedley hopes it will make people aware of available remedies and bring academic and practical legal expertise together. The centre can be found at the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies.

John Ellwood questions the trend to exclude some serious offences from trial by jury in the Crown Court

Summary offensiveness

Picture a young man walking down the street with a sawn-off length of scaffolding pole hidden inside his coat and a piece of spark-plug in his pocket, and wearing a pair of stout gloves. What is he up to? For those of us who practise in the criminal courts in the north of England the answer is clear: he is going to "scuff" a car.

He will approach the car and flick the piece of spark-plug at the side window which will shatter (known in the trade as "popping"). His hands protected by his stout gloves, he will reach under the ignition barrel and rip off its plastic casing. He will then fit the scaffolding pole over the ignition barrel, pull sharply down and snap off the barrel. Then he will push a piece of metal into the broken ignition system and start the car. If he is expert, it will take less than five minutes. Now

pick the odd one out of these three offences: (a) shoplifting; (b) taking a motor vehicle without the owner's consent (joy-riding); (c) driving while disqualified from driving.

The answer is clear. Shoplifting is the only offence which is triable both in a magistrates' court and in the Crown Court. The other two offences are triable only in a magistrates' court. Such offences carry a maximum punishment of six months' imprisonment on each offence, up to a maximum of 12 months. Offences which are triable at the Crown Court carry much higher maximum punishments.

The Criminal Justice Act of 1988

effectively made the quite serious offence of "taking a motor vehicle without the owner's consent" a summary offence, which means that it is triable only in the magistrates' court. Previously it was also triable in the Crown Court. It must certainly be open to question why this was done. The effect of making the offence summary only reduces the maximum punishment and reduces the seriousness of the offence in the eyes of the sentencing.

There is, of course, another side to this. Most people believe that if they are charged with a fairly serious offence, they have a right to be tried before a judge and jury. But for

some reason the legislature has decided to exclude the offence of taking a motor vehicle without the owner's consent. So that if, for example, you were wrongly accused of stealing a pencil from Woolworth, you could elect to have the matter tried before a jury; but if you were wrongly accused of taking a Rolls-Royce for a joyride, you would not have the same right.

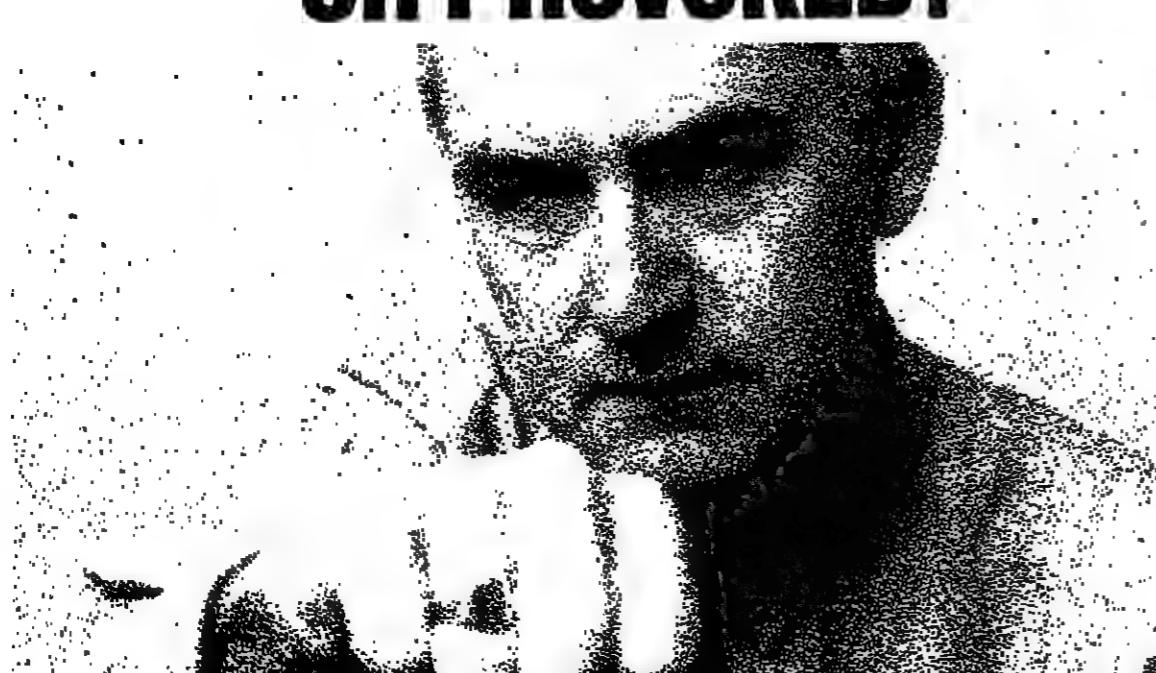
It is a matter of concern to lawyers that this trend continues. The offence which caused most concern previously was that of assaulting a police officer in the execution of his duty. This was

The Law Society's latest briefing on the Courts and Legal Services Bill confirms that the society has despaired of succeeding in the House of Lords. It concludes that on rights of audience "the judges should have a consultative rather than a decision-making role if Parliament is to be sure that the Bill's aim of widening clients' choice is to be achieved". It has decided to focus its time and effort on the House of Commons where, it has concluded, "most of these issues can more fruitfully be taken up". However, while the Bar's strong Lords lobby may then be out of sight, it will not be out of mind.

During the long debate over the future of the legal profession, the Law Society is taking no chances with its staff's health as they burn the midnight oil preparing the case for the Commons. In a leaflet entitled "Look After Your Heart", its personnel department extols the virtues of exercise, listing 10 reasons why exercise benefits the individual. Under the heading "Why does the Law Society care?" the leaflet concludes that healthier employees mean a healthier work-force, raising the real possibility of, *inter alia*, a longer working life; good public relations inside and outside the organization; and reduced stress. With the showdown over tricky questions such as the cab rank rule and judges' vetoes looming, the society obviously does not intend to be caught napping.

Scrivenor

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Based in new prestigious offices in Southampton, this expanding practice has an opportunity for a young solicitor up to 2 years PQE in civil litigation to assist the Commercial Litigation Partner and play a significant role in further development of the practice. Some commercial experience is desirable; good inter-personal skills are essential.

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A high calibre solicitor and potential partner is sought by this young commercial practice in Buckinghamshire. The successful applicant will have at least 4 years PQE obtained in a major London or provincial practice and the ability to work as part of a strong professional team enjoying close liaison with clients.

Commerce/Industry

BANKING £25,000++ and Car

An assistant solicitor is required for a recognised Banking Institution in Berkshire. Two to four years' experience with the Finance/Banking and Consumer Credit Acts is desirable. The ideal applicant should be confident and articulate and able to work on his/her own initiative.

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Candidates should ideally have 2 to 5 years' relevant experience including the ability to design plans and draft scheme documents, and will be looking for a role offering close client contact with considerable autonomy and responsibility.

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For further information, please contact Alistair Dougall or Gareth Quarry on 01-405 6062 (01-228 5345 evenings/weekends) or write to Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 9 Brownlow Street, London WC1V 6JD.



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HORIZONS

Everybody's welfare at heart

Welfare rights workers are on hand to lend a listening ear and guide us through the minefields of legislation. Janis Mackay talks with a worker

As the system of benefits and bureaucracy grows more complex, so the need increases for specialist knowledge to help make sense of the policies that affect our lives. Faced with yet another form to fill in and trying to determine which benefits they are eligible for, people are turning increasingly to welfare rights workers.

Timothy Edensor works as a welfare rights officer in an unemployed workers' centre in Musselborough, Scotland.

He says of his work: "The mass of legislation makes it almost impossible for the average person to know how things operate. People need specialist advice to be fully aware of the laws that affect them."

A lot of the work involves giving advice on benefits, such as income support, family credit, housing benefit, and also contributory benefit such as unemployment benefit and retirement pension.

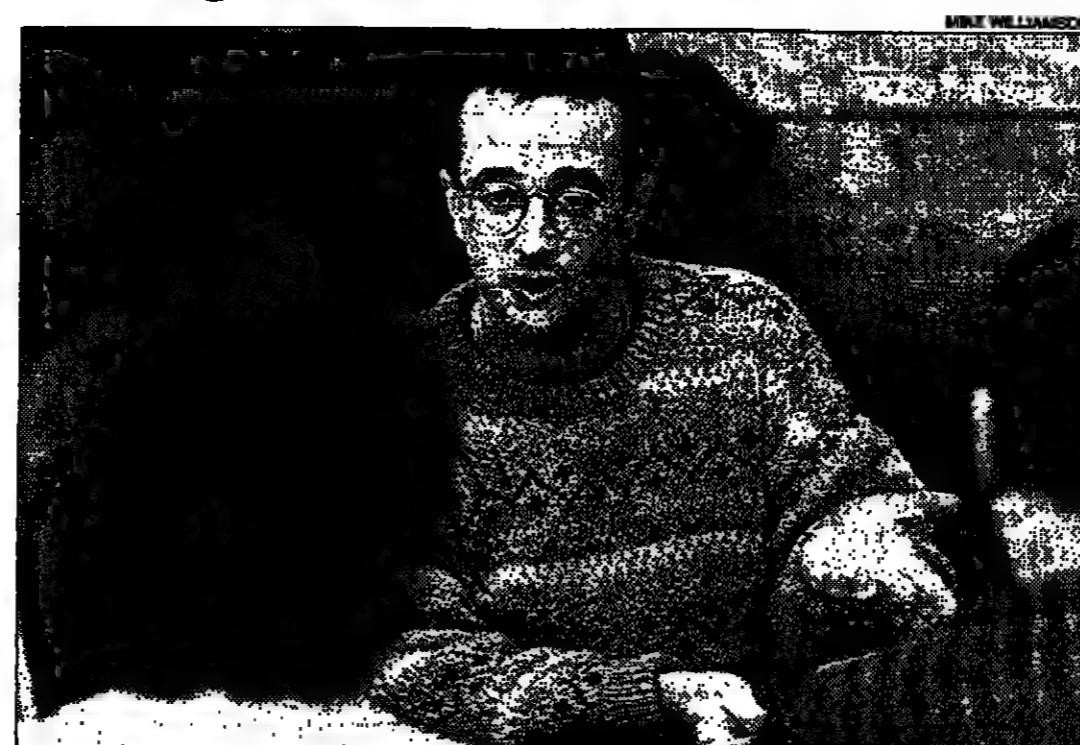
The job can also include a fair amount of debt counselling because of the wide availability of

credit cards. A welfare rights officer should also be equipped to deal with problems between landlord and tenant. The law has shifted in favour of the landlord, making eviction easier.

Similarly, the new employment legislation makes it difficult for employees to contest dismissal. "Because of legislation over the past 10 years the welfare rights worker has a lot more work, simply because the rights of the citizen have been reformulated," Mr Edensor says. "Recent legislation requires that claimants be actively seeking work, with evidence of this otherwise you are liable to have benefits suspended.

A lot of my work involves claimants who have been completely cut off from their money. People quite often come into the office angry, upset or frustrated about decisions that have been made affecting their lives, that they don't understand.

"You have to be calm and relaxed, and possess analytical and counselling skills." It is important, he says, to establish the facts. He sometimes has to accompany people to tribunal hearings



Cutting through the red tape: Timothy Edensor offers advice at the Musselborough Unemployment Centre

ings to help them appeal against decisions made against them by DSS and unemployment offices.

"In the course of a day I have to deal with many different people and organizations: social workers, housing departments, bureaucrats and the ordinary claimant."

The Citizens Advice Bureau was set up after the Second World

War and is an expanding service. It is mainly a voluntary organization where workers are given rigorous training, which can increase their own employment skills.

Mr Edensor worked at the CAB before starting work as a welfare rights officer. He also pursued his own study of immigrants to

Edinburgh and co-edited book, *Moving Worlds*.

A welfare rights worker does not necessarily need to undertake formal studies. He says: "I came through the door of the CAB where you gather a lot of experience through the course of the working day. Most people who work in welfare rights have gained

experience through voluntary work. Formal qualifications are not necessary — more relevant is how much experience you have in giving practical advice.

"If you want to be a welfare rights worker I'd recommend doing voluntary work in your local advice centre or CAB. You need counselling skills, a listening ear and a friendly manner. College studies that could lead on to welfare rights would be social welfare and administration.

The work has its compensations. "I like the fact that I meet a wide range of people, and you have the occasional success. It's satisfying to take on a bureaucratic machine and win. You have to keep ahead of what's happening and become acquainted with the law and with changes. If the Government adopts the European Social Charter in 1992, many things will change.

"Although you will be expected to keep on top of things and know the rights of the citizen, it is impossible to know everything. You will need a good information

system and the ability to trace information."

Depending on where a welfare rights officer is based, the work can vary. But as the name implies, they are mainly concerned with the welfare of people and helping them obtain their rights.

If time permits, they may also be involved in projects such as setting up a food co-operative or organizing art workshops.

The welfare rights worker may work in independent advice centres, law centres, councils, housing departments, student welfare rights offices, unions, or the CAB. Salaries for welfare rights workers can vary tremendously, depending on where they work. Some independent advice centres are short of funds and salaries often reflect this.

However, it is not a role that is all demands without any back-up. To support the welfare rights worker, regular meetings are held of workers in the area, to discuss current issues, changes and problems.

● Citizen's Advice Bureau, 115-123 Pentonville Road, London N1 9LZ (01-333 2181).

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PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

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The General Medical Council is the regulatory body for the medical profession.

Due to expansion and increased workload, we are currently recruiting Senior Administrative Assistants to work in the various divisions of the Council.

Candidates should be graduates with a minimum of 4 years' previous public administration experience. As well as assuming responsibility for his or her own casework the postholder will supervise the work of junior staff. There is frequent contact with members of the medical profession by telephone and letter so excellent oral and written communication skills are essential. An eye for detail and an interest in the medical field would be an advantage.

For further information about these posts please contact:

Personnel Division
General Medical Council
44 Hallam Street, London W1N 6AE
Tel: 01 580 7642 (Ext 2133)

Closing date for completed applications: 30th March 1990.

Continued on next page

FINANCIAL

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Corporate Accounts

Starting salary in range £19,500-£23,600

Managing the Bank Reconciliation process of the Authority's main bank accounts, you will also be the focus for all taxation matters within the County - offering advice and guidance at all levels. A high level of communication skills is necessary for this key post together with the ability to grasp and analyse complex issues.

Kent County Council

Management Accountant

Starting salary in range £16,600-£20,500

As our Commercial Accountant, you'll be responsible for a dramatically varying range of one-off projects valued at anything between £5,000 and £10 million. Probably a fully qualified accountant with 2-3 years' good commercial experience, you'll bring that approach to bear in a consultative role, aiming to provide us with the best of financial advantage, in all areas.

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Closing date: 6th April 1990.

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FRIDAY
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La Creme de la Creme and other secretarial appointments.

Science and Technology: Technology with editorial.

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Restaurant Guide: Where to eat in London and nationwide with editorial.

Shops/websites: Window shopping from the comfort of your own home.

Gardening.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

NATIONAL HEART AND CHEST HOSPITALS

Director of Personnel

Salary: Senior Managers Pay Scale spine point 11
£28,040 inclusive of London Weighting,
plus performance related pay

This group of postgraduate teaching hospitals comprises the Brompton and National Heart Hospital, due to move into Phase I of a new building in Chelsea this year, and the London Chest Hospital, situated in Bethnal Green. Together with the associated National Heart and Lung Institute, they specialise in all aspects of heart and lung disease with emphasis on new medical developments, research and teaching.

Applications for this new post are invited from those who have demonstrated achievement or shown high potential either within or outside the NHS. An appropriate professional qualification and relevant experience are essential.

The Director will be expected to take a lead in assessing priorities for the 1990's, setting up personnel policies and procedures and identifying management and organisational developments in a period of great change. He/she will be a member of the Senior Management Group and will give an important advisory and support service to the Chief Executive and Unit General Managers.

Initially the appointment will be made for a period of four years.

A job description and other relevant information may be obtained from John Plant, the Chief Executive, who would be pleased to discuss with potential applicants. Tel: (01) 352 8121 ext. 4002.

Applications, by curriculum vitae, together with the names and addresses of three referees, should be addressed to: Mr. J. R. Plant, Chief Executive, National Heart and Chest Hospitals, Brompton Hospital, Fulham Road, London SW3 6EP. Closing date: 20th April 1990.

HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT ENGINEERING SUPPORT SERVICES

Analyst/Programmer Bristol Up to £16,260

Your main role will be to participate in the support and development of computer applications on the Department's PRIME 6300 computer. Micro-computers and the County's shared IBM 3083 main frame.

You will need to have had at least three years experience in data processing and should be proficient in FORTRAN 77 and have experience of developing systems using ORACLE database software, and supporting computer aided design systems.

Applicants will normally be expected to have a degree in computing, or a related discipline, or be members of the British Computer Society.

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The Authority has a positive equal opportunities policy and welcomes applications from all sections of the Community, particularly those presently under-represented in this work area e.g. black and other ethnic minorities and people with disabilities (Race Relations Act 1976 Section 38(1) (B) refers).

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LEGAL

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Exeter and East Devon Magistrates' Courts
Salary circa £26,000

Applications are invited from barristers or solicitors for the post of Deputy Clerk to the Exeter and East Devon Justices which becomes vacant on 1st August, 1990.

The post offers an exciting and challenging opportunity for a person who enjoys using his/her own initiative. The environment offers a unique mix of city and rural courts in a most pleasant location. The post is based in Exeter. The person appointed will have considerable responsibility for legal, administrative and management functions within the office in Exeter, holding or managing a team. An ICL computer is in use.

Applicants should be good communicators with a sense of humour prepared to act as part of the team. The successful applicant will also be encouraged to become involved in the training of justices and staff and also to gain a formal qualification in management if this is not already held.

The remuneration package includes a lease car and a generous relocation allowance.

Interviews will be held in Exeter on Tuesday, 10th April 1990.

If you think you have the ambition to succeed in a highly motivated environment, please send your application to: 'THE CLERK', with full details of qualifications, age and experience together with the names and addresses of two referees to reach me undelivered no later than 26th March, 1990.

Further information can be obtained by calling Mr A Jackson on Exeter (0392) 272259 or alternatively if you wish to discuss any aspect of this post please ring the Clerk to the Justices, Mr S Reynolds on Exeter (0392) 70081.

County Hall
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For an informal discussion contact Ray Angel, Head of Dept x 3369

Accounting Department (Ref: AC Law 2)
Opportunity to teach law on a range of postgraduate, graduate and professional accounting courses. Company and Employment Law specialists welcomed.

For an informal discussion contact Nick Pratt, Head of Dept x 3465

Candidates must hold a degree in law. A higher degree; teaching experience; professional qualifications are advantageous but not essential. Applications for fractional posts from those wishing to combine lecturing with other activities are welcomed.

**EALING
COLLEGE LONDON**

For further details please contact

Personnel Office
Ealing College of Higher Education
St Mary's Road
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Management skills are a paramount requirement but financial knowledge, experience of housing associations and the work of district councils would be an advantage. The person appointed will probably have a professional qualification.

The post is based in Norwich and arises from the forthcoming retirement of the present Chief Executive.

Further written particulars may be obtained from

The Chairman
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100 Saint Benedict's, Norwich NR2 4AB

CMS

THE CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY HAS A VACANCY FOR A REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR SOUTH AND EAST ASIA

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Each Regional Secretary is the Society's ambassador in his or her region, and is responsible for creating and maintaining relationships of trust and partnership with leaders of the church and its institutions, including the making of financial provisions, enabling the movement of people across cultures, and other creative initiatives. There is extensive overseas travel.

Applicants may be male or female, lay or ordained. The successful candidate will be a person of Christian vision with a strong commitment to world mission. He or she will have the ability to think theologically and to identify political, economic, religious and cultural issues in the region. Communications, organisational and administrative skills are also important. Knowledge of the Hindu or Buddhist traditions and experience of one of the leading cultures of the region are desirable.

Salary will be within a scale from £16,168 to £19,762 per annum, starting point to be determined according to experience. There is a London Allowance of £1,340 per month.

Other benefits include a contributory pension scheme, housing loan facility and 30 days annual holiday.

For further information please contact Gavin Bay, Personnel Secretary, The Church Missionary Society, 157 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8TU. Tel: 01-928 3651. Fax: 01-928 5215.

The closing date for completed applications is 11 May 1990.

DEPUTY COMPUTER MANAGER (HEADQUARTERS)

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Applications are invited for the above position which is based at the Police Headquarters in Nettisham. The postholder will have responsibility for the day to day running of the Computer Department, advise on the purchase and installation of computer hardware and software, assist with the preparation of the annual budget, provide advice and assistance to users.

Ideally you will be educated to degree level in Computer Science and possess a managerial qualification. A minimum of five years experience including two years at project leader level.

A casual user car allowance is payable and relocation expenses are reimbursable in appropriate cases.

For an informal discussion please telephone Mr. Kevin Kelly on Lincoln (0522) 558260.

An information package and application form are available from the Assistant Personnel Officer, Police Headquarters, PO Box 999, Lincoln LNS 7PR. Tel. Lincoln (0522) 558231. Closing date: 30th March 1990.

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ELIZABETH

SPRING WEDDINGS

By Nicole Swengley



Chiffon skirt with overdress and bolero jacket, £269, Pronuptia and Youngs

In tune with the bridal march

Proposals outlined in last month's White Paper pave the way for more romantic civil marriage ceremonies. Bride and groom will be able to marry at a stately home, for example, instead of a register office. And they will be free to marry in any district in England and Wales (for the first time since civil marriage law was drawn up in 1837).

Once the proposals have been passed by Parliament, local authorities will be able to offer de luxe packages, including music, videos and photographs in the fee.

With the average cost of a wedding-with-trimmings running at £6,769, it is important to ensure that arrangements run smoothly. One way to ease things is to use a bridal service, such as Barcrots of Belgravia (01-835 1361), which offers religious advice and a personal styling service.

Those wishing to organize everything themselves but not knowing where to start, can contact the National Wedding Association (0734 509345), which supplies a free list of members who provide photography, catering, stationery, videos and marquees. And to cover any mishaps, such as illness of the bride or groom, Jackson Emms (0734 575491) offers a wedding insurance package for £35.

As we move towards freer expression in marriage ceremonies, so fashion changes influence our tastes. Although a solitaire diamond is still top choice for an engagement ring, jewellers are receiving demands

for Continental-style combined-engagement-wedding rings. Gold "eternity" bands studded with precious stones are also finding favour as engagement rings, while wedding rings studded with diamonds are becoming popular.

Sources of unusual ring designs include Michael Rose Jewellers (01-224 2484), Theo Fennell (01-352 7313), Elizabeth Gage (01-499 2879), Richard Ogden (01-493 9136), Tiffany & Co (01-409 589), Bootle & Dunthorpe (01-584 6363) and Mappin & Webb (01-439 8297).

The trend towards evening parties means that many brides need

Harrods last month, stocking dresses by Tatlers. Liberty's bridal department carries a wide range by young designers, from Philippa Lepley's slim, beaded sheath to Karen Ashton's dramatic crinolines. Prices range from £395 to £1,600 (01-734 1234).

The Wedding Wardrobe (01-747 4989), a hire specialist, stocks silk designer bridal gowns by Lyn Ashworth, Catherine Rayner and Annalise Sharp. Prices range from £600 to £1,400 to buy or £150 to £500 to hire. The shop is giving away veils and head-dresses to the value of £100 with each dress bought this spring. Country-

stunes of family and friends.

Wedding lists ensure couples get what they really want without duplication. Guests can order by post, telephone or in person from shops offering this service. The advantage is that presents can be stored and delivered en masse. Contact John Lewis (01-29 7711 and countrywide branches), Peter Jones (01-730 3434), the Conran Shop (01-589 7401), Joanna Wood (01-730 5064), the General Trading Company (01-730 0411), Selfridges (01-629 1234), the Sleeping Company (01-581 2058), Harrods (01-730 1234), Graham & Green (01-727 1757), Perfect Glass (01-351 5342), Eximious (01-627 2888), Liberty (01-734 1234), Divertimenti (01-935 0689) and Mulberry Hall (0904 620736).

Alternatively, the Wedding List Company (01-244 6116) will compile and hold a list for brides selecting from a number of shops. It wraps and delivers for £100.

Thomas Goode (01-499 2823), a fine china and glass specialist, offers a good deal: a Privilege Card entitling couples to 10 per cent discount for two years, an account credited with 10 per cent of the value of all presents bought from the list and a complimentary bottle of champagne.

Other offers include advantageous prices at three of the Savoy Group's London hotels and the Cotswold-based Lygon Arms. An unusual gift: the auctioneers Bonhams's Weddingplan allows donations to be spent at the London salerooms (01-584 9161).



Soft satin in white or ivory with rosebud detail, £249, Pronuptia and Youngs

Dresses, flowers, gifts, reception...weddings need much thought. But there are specialists around who can help

a dress to waft them through day into night. The Nineties solution is a short lace sheath, with a peplum, train and bolero for the church service, which are removed for the party. Such a dress might suit a register office ceremony followed by a blessing in church.

Exotic confections once in demand by brides are out, in favour of a pared-down profile. Texture and cut of fabric are emphasized, along with fine detail such as embroidery, beading and plaiting. Sharper silhouettes are softened by scalloped necklines, lace-edged sleeves and bodices, head-dresses and veils are embellished with old lace, beads and crystal. (For hand-woven veils, contact Elizabeth Edema, 01-229 2564).

A new bridal room opened at

wide branches of Berketex Brides and Pronuptia Youngs are also worth investigating.

Catherine Buckley (01-229 8786) offers a VHS video (£12) of examples of her dresses. Laura Ashley's 1990 Bridal catalogue is available from Laura Ashley By Post, PO Box 19, Newton, Powys, Wales SY16 1DZ.

Grooms, too, are favouring a more individual style, with embroidered waistcoats, coloured buttons and a froth of silk at the neck. Peter Hindley, managing director of Pronuptia Youngs, anticipates "innovative use of accessories with waistcoats peacock prints, velvet or brocade, to transform the morning tailcoat and co-ordinate with patterned dress shirts, colourful braces and cummerbunds".

As for the cake, Decor-cake (01-263 6348) works from photographs to create iced extravaganzas, incorporating detailed mini-

stationery is an important consideration. Pronuptia has launched its own range including invitations, thank-you notes and cake boxes, and W.H. Smith offers edible/biodegradable confetti.

Also worth contacting is the Walton Street Stationery Company (01-589 0777) and Frank Smythson (01-629 8538).

As for the cake, Decor-cake (01-263 6348) works from photographs to create iced extravaganzas, incorporating detailed mini-

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RUGBY UNION

Scotland can tap a large reservoir of talent for NZ tour

By Alan Lorimer

After the emotional grand slam victory on Saturday, Scotland's selectors must take a more sober view when they meet tonight to choose their 30 players for this summer's tour of New Zealand.

Not long ago, Scotland's assistant coach, Jim Telfer, expressed the view that in terms of rugby talent Scotland has "a mid-twenties age gap". The "gap" has manifested itself in the gulf between the Scotland team and the B side, although, to be fair, the latter have suffered from a high turnover of personnel as Scotland have both experimented and stuck rigidly to their policy of using only uncapped players.

While there is this apparent vacuum, there is seemingly a large reservoir of young talent ready to emerge, as has been witnessed by the success of the Scottish champions, Melrose, and their close rivals, Jed Forest, both brim full of young players, and it will surely be the case that a sprinkling of this next generation will be taken to New Zealand.

Inclusive of Peter Dods and Derek White, who has apparently had a change of mind over his unavailability, the 21 players of this season's campaign will certainly be inked in. The 22nd, Craig Redpath,

England are likely to take the young Glasgow High-kilnside lock Shadrack Muir, but the problem will be to find today.

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England pause to face the future

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

England turned their faces resolutely to the front yesterday; the loss of the grand slam on Saturday, the Scots on Saturday was confirmed to history with the announcement of plans for the summer, and a development squad of 55 players to take part in a five-year programme.

However, Roger Utley, England's coach, did confirm that Saturday's 13-7 defeat will act as a spur to the present squad: "The senior players are determined to be there for the World Cup," he said. "We may find that the disappointment of last weekend could be a turning point in our hopes for the future because it was a large and bitter pill to swallow."

Don Rutherford, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) technical administrator, added that the lessons learned at Murrayfield would be carried into future training programmes: "We have to be quicker, we have to react more quickly, we have to meet fire with fire," he said. "It was a timely reminder and I'm glad we had it now, rather than when we meet New Zealand in the World Cup."

The next stage of England's long-term preparations come on May 1, when their game against what will now be an Italian President's XV will be played in Rovigo. Nine England players — six from last Saturday's match squad — will not be available for the July tour to Argentina and are likely therefore to be excluded from consideration for the XV to play in Italy.

The absences are Rory Underwood, Jeremy Guscott, Simon Halliday, Mark Bailey, Rob Andrew, Paul Ackford, Andy Mullins, Gary Pearce and Brian Barley. Others may become unavailable, depending on

Focusing on amateur ethics

By David Hands

The International Rugby Football Board's (IRFB) amateur sub-committee met yesterday to discuss the response to the paper circulated last year which hinted at the easing of the game's amateur regulations. The board, whose annual meeting is this week in London, will devote today's full session to the amateur principles which have caused so much headache in both hemispheres — though for different reasons.

Amateur regulations will be known on Friday but in private there will be fierce debate between those who believe, broadly, that players should be compensated for the time they devote to playing rugby, and those — headed by the Rugby Football Union (RFU) — who see this as leading directly towards a professional game.

"We are convinced that the first principle of rugby union, which is its amateurism, is a good one and one that we should not allow to be eroded," Dudley Wood, the RFU sec-

retary, said yesterday when outlining England's position. "The success of the game is based upon its amateurism. Everything we do, including the commercial activities, goes back to this principle."

The RFU stands or falls on by-law four of the existing amateur regulations which prevent clubs from giving a future payment, benefit or other material reward for taking part in the game. "If the game is to remain an amateur game, the payment of daily allowances must only apply when teams are on tour," their submission reads. "... to pay a player's salary or wages because he is playing rugby instead of working is unequivocally paying him to play rugby."

Wood also made the point yesterday that, if such were to be the case, the Inland Revenue would become closely involved in cases where a national union could be deemed to be the employer of players. "We are

fully aware of the views of some of the players," he added. "There has been no lack of consultation but a few players have had a better opportunity to make their views known than any of the other 250,000 who also play the game."

The RFU adopts a more flexible attitude towards the issue of communication for reward but stresses the need to proceed with caution because the amended regulation is imprecise and no more enforceable than the existing one."

Wood added: "The vote of a handful of people, who can change something that is the absolute basis of our game, is a very dangerous thing. I say, sixteen people decide we have to play with a round ball, we would have to change what they have that right? If men of goodwill are trying to do what is right for our game, we should, in principle, support them. But if they do something that is irrational, we should have to rethink our position."

Stonyhurst were considerably extended by Rossall, for whom Holmes played splendidly, in the semi-final while Solihull enjoyed an easy ride against King's College.

The winning try closely followed the interval. Whorrod received the ball on the losers' 10-metre line. Martin Callaghan sprinted to work a loop and Smallwood's pace needed no further encouragement and he scampered in for the only score.

The British Aerospace sevens at Fylde, have become something approaching a private preserve of Stonyhurst College, who had won the G W Parkes Trophy five times in the past seven years, but they faltered in

the final and went down to Solihull by a single try.

Stonyhurst's international stand-off half, Cridillas, had an injured shoulder throughout and should probably have come off during the final. But Solihull's greater fitness and speed were crucial and scored the game's only try.

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"I am delighted to have this opportunity to announce this agreement in principle," Vincent said. "It is a four-year agreement. It includes a minimum salary of \$100,000 (about £59,000), up from \$68,000 (about £40,000)."

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ATHLETICS



ANTHONY PHELPS

To be auctioned: Nicoll with the ball bearing the signatures of the England rugby squad

Getting the adrenalin going by putting your life at risk

By Alex Hanley

Daniel Nicoll likes to see himself as a sporting jack of all trades. He plays squash, hockey and rugby, he surfs and sailboats; he is not much what he does at a walking pace.

As one of *The Times* and Unisys-backed runners, he is in training to fulfil one of his three greatest ambitions — to run in the London Marathon. His two other goals in life are to complete a parachute jump and to try bungee jumping which for the uninhibited, is flinging yourself off a bridge with nothing but an elasticated rope to separate you from the hereafter.

A former PE teacher, Nicoll is the sales manager and events director for the Rugby Club of London, and it was his involvement with the club that led him to try this year's race on April 22. "I had always wanted to run the London Marathon," he said, "and Jeff Butterfield, who started the club, suggested I get a team together and run for charity."

Nicoll is on the hunt for runners who have entries for the marathon and are interested in making up a relay XV. The idea is that they all run to raise money for the Spinal Injuries Association, an organization to help people come to terms with paraparesis and life in a wheelchair after breaking their neck or back.

In response Sandy Sanders, the RFU president, referred to the RFU's desire to re-establish playing relationships. "Our sympathies lie with the SARF in what they are trying to do," he said.

"The Rugby Club has been involved with the SARF for many years," Nicoll said. "I was invited to the association's gala ball before Christmas. I went with Mick Skinner, the England wing forward, and we had a great night and decided we wanted to help."

"The people there were absolutely wonderful. We met many people in wheelchairs who are enthusiastic about life. It makes you feel guilty to be down in the dumps about anything when they are bubbling with enthusiasm."

Skinner's contribution to the proceedings was to get a ball signed by the England squad, which Nicoll will auction at an SIHA dinner. He hopes to raise between £1,000 and £2,000 for the charity.

The Times and Unisys — the official ADT London Marathon computer service — hope that by financing the efforts of our 12 fund runners we will help them find sponsorship. If you wish to support one or more of them, write clearly, stating your beneficiaries to *The Times*/Unisys London Marathon Appeal, Sports Department, The Times, Virginia Street, London E1 9QN.

Meanwhile, Nicoll is doing the hard work, training all week and playing rugby for Rosslyn Park at the weekends. Some mornings he even runs to work from his home in Dulwich. "It's about six miles," he said. "Some mornings it is quicker to run than to use London Transport, which seems ridiculous. But the fumes in town are very bad, so instead sometimes I come into work early and run in Regent's Park, which is beautiful."

As if that was not keeping him fit enough, he also works out at the gym and has recruited some of the fitness fanatics there to join his marathon rugby team.

"The trouble is we have lots of people who are interested in joining up with the team and want to run for the SIHA, but they haven't got an entry to the marathon," he explained. "We want to get in touch with people who have already been accepted for the race but have since dropped out. We can fill their places."

As well as promoting the SIHA, he also hopes to raise £10,000 for the cause, thanks to the sponsorship of club members and a collection bottle in the bar.

For those who can't afford to enjoy "life and beat", Nicoll's preoccupation with danger is little baffling. "I enjoy them," he said. "I like to get the adrenalin going by putting my life at risk." Not that there will be much danger in the 26-odd miles between Greenwich and County Hall.

The Times and Unisys — the official ADT London Marathon computer service — hope that by financing the efforts of our 12 fund runners we will help them find sponsorship. If you wish to support one or more of them, write clearly, stating your beneficiaries to *The Times*/Unisys London Marathon Appeal, Sports Department, The Times, Virginia Street, London E1 9QN.

Unisys is offering a Unisys personal computer to the biggest fund raiser of our 12 and a jumbo and magnum of champagne respectively to the second and third largest.

SWIMMING

Selection policy weakens Britain

By Craig Lord

English swimmers have been penalized in favour of their weaker Scottish counterparts in the Great Britain selection process for the Four Nations Spring Trophy in Coventry.

The Amateur Swimming Federation of Great Britain made a policy last November that selection would be taken purely on the basis of results at the Auckland Commonwealth Games, apparently ignoring the fact that swimmers compete for individual countries and not Britain at the Games.

So when Britain faces strong teams from West Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands on April 7 and 8, it will do so without the best team possible, even given that some key English champions have asked not

to be considered for the team.

This will be most noticeable in the men's 4 x 200 metre freestyle relay, an event at which Britain has been strong, but selected for the first time.

SWIMMING **SELE** **BRITAIN** **TEAMS** **10** **11** **12** **13** **14** **15** **16** **17** **18** **19** **20** **21** **22** **23** **24** **25** **26** **27** **28** **29** **30** **31** **32** **33** **34** **35** **36** **37** **38** **39** **40** **41** **42** **43** **44** **45** **46** **47** **48** **49** **50** **51** **52** **53** **54** **55** **56** **57** **58** **59** **60** **61** **62** **63** **64** **65** **66** **67** **68** **69** **70** **71** **72** **73** **74** **75** **76** **77** **78** **79** **80** **81** **82** **83** **84** **85** **86** **87** **88** **89** **90** **91** **92** **93** **94** **95** **96** **97** **98** **99** **100** **101** **102** **103** **104** **105** **106** **107** **108** **109** **110** **111** **112** **113** **114** **115** **116** **117** **118** **119** **120** **121** **122** **123** **124** **125** **126** **127** **128** **129** **130** **131** **132** **133** **134** **135** **136** **137** **138** **139** **140** **141** **142** **143** **144** **145** **146** **147** **148** **149** **150** **151** **152** **153** **154** **155** **156** **157** **158** **159** **160** **161** **162** **163** **164** **165** **166** **167** **168** **169** **170** **171** **172** **173** **174** **175** **176** **177** **178** **179** **180** **181** **182** **183** **184** **185** **186** **187** **188** **189** **190** **191** **192** **193** **194** **195** **196** **197** **198** **199** **200** **201** **202** **203** **204** **205** **206** **207** **208** **209** **210** **211** **212** **213** **214** **215** **216** **217** **218** **219** **220** **221** **222** **223** **224** **225** **226** **227** **228** **229** **230** **231** **232** **233** **234** **235** **236** **237** **238** **239** **240** **241** **242** **243** **244** **245** **246** **247** **248** **249** **250** **251** **252** **253** **254** **255** **256** **257** **258** **259** **260** **261** **262** **263** **264** **265** **266** **267** **268** **269** **270** **271** **272** **273** **274** **275** **276** **277** **278** **279** **280** **281** **282** **283** **284** **285** **286** **287** **288** **289** **290** **291** **292** **293** **294** **295** **296** **297** **298** <

Just watching the world go by

From David Miller
Columbus, Ohio

His hands are as large as telephone directories. When he signs a cheque, the pen seems hidden, no bigger than a toothpick. One slip of that bear's paw, you sense, would send you cartwheeling out through the front door.

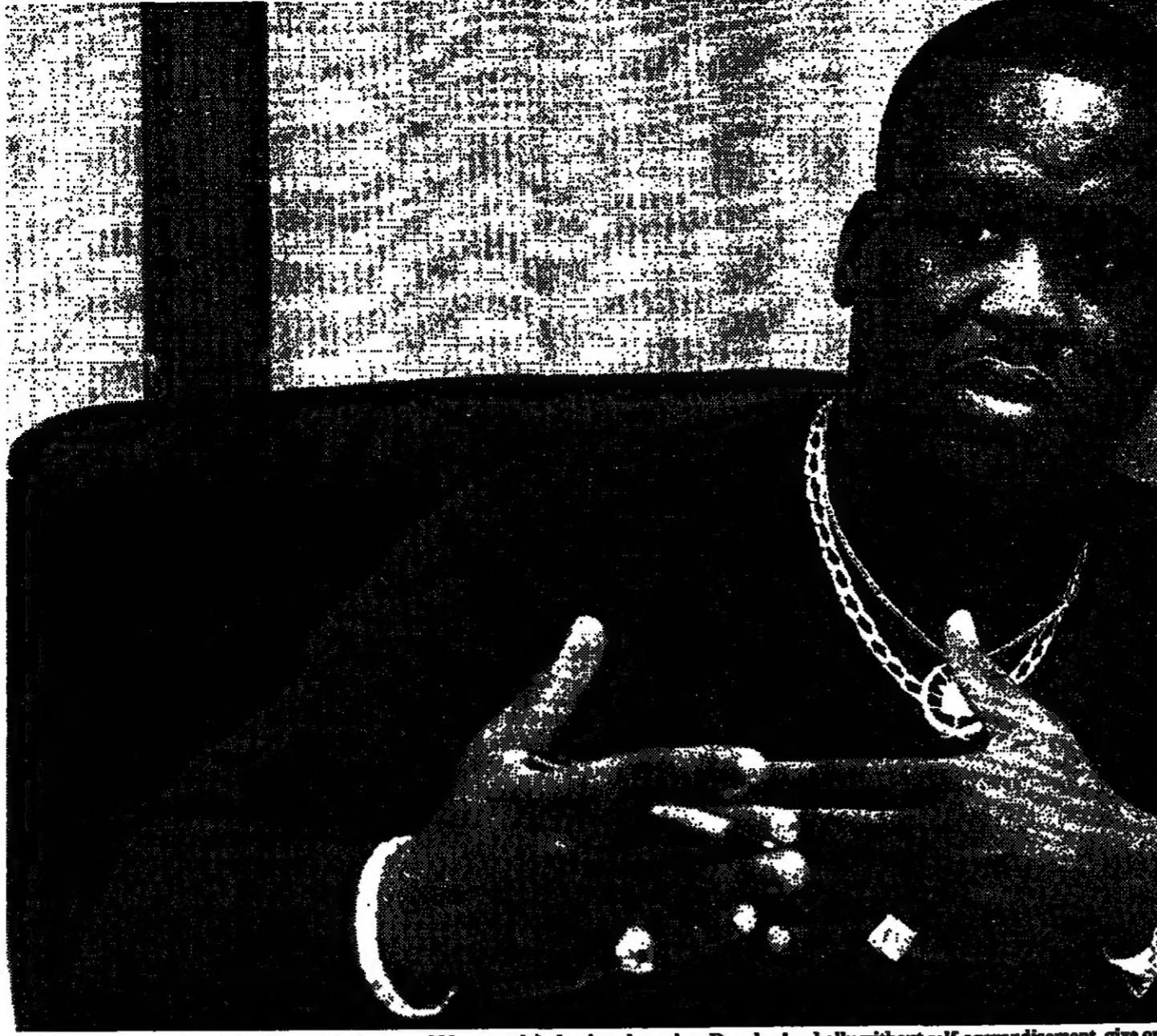
This huge, passive, almost somnolent man, who is less astonished than the rest of the world that he sits behind a business desk as heavyweight champion, is learning to live with fame. The new single-storey cedar office of James "Buster" Douglas Inc is in an unostentatious modern suburb here. After only three weeks' rental, the secretary is still getting the furniture and telephones arranged. Douglas still drives his 20-year-old Cadillac; more than ever now a collector's piece.

Flying home from Tokyo after the greatest upset in the history of boxing, sitting on the prospect of a multi-million-dollar purse for his next contest, Douglas observed almost casually to John Johnson, his manager: "Now I'll be able to get the car fixed with a new coat of paint." When a local dealer gives him a new van for training he passes it on to the aunt who kept him in tennis shoes as a kid.

Douglas's controversial knockout of Mike Tyson in the tenth round has opened unimaginable commercial vistas. Can he and his relatively inexperienced manager now their boat through the turbulent seas of promoters, agents and managers who find their plans devastated by the fall of Tyson? "There are some people trying to tell us we don't know what we're doing," Johnson says in his languid West Virginian drawl.

Nine lawsuits are shuttling back and forth between Don King, almost demented at the deflation of his Tyson franchise, his rivals Bob Arum and Dan Dux, the promoter of Evander Holyfield — who was scheduled to meet Tyson before the Tokyo cataclysm — and the rival world boxing organizations and television channels. Johnson, a former junior football coach with Ohio State University under the legendary Woody Hayes, has a degree in human behaviour sciences and was working with the Columbus social services department's maximum security unit for adolescent offenders when Douglas asked him to be his manager.

In a matter of weeks, Douglas has moved from being a relative unknown, with five contests on the undercard and one disappointing contenders' eliminator against Tony Tucker, to being a one-man industry. In six weeks he has spent only five days in Columbus, fulfilling an endless round of personal appearances: with Johnny Carson in Los Angeles, with Muhammad Ali for a Golden Gloves promotion



Ringmaster in repose: For a world heavyweight boxing champion, Douglas is wholly without self-aggrandisement, give or take the odd piece

in Virginia, and onwards through Detroit, Kansas, Minneapolis, Chicago, Indianapolis, New York (three times), Newark, Las Vegas.

All paid him the ultimate compliment with a reverent bow, saying: "You're the greatest man." And then with a typical Ali afterthought: "But I'm still the greatest ever."

Yet for all his sudden fame, and the offered guarantee of \$21 million for his next contest from Steve Wynn, owner of the grotesquely luxurious Mirage Hotel in Las Vegas, Douglas's recent private life has been in a turmoil of emotions: threatening quicksands which might devour him.

His younger brother Artie died to death from an accidental gunshot wound; three years ago his trainer, his father Billy, the former middleweight "Dynamite" Douglas, walked out on him after his defeat by Tucker; the mother of his 11-

year-old son, Lamar, is ill with leukaemia; three weeks before the Tyson encounter, Lula, his mother, died of a stroke; and since the sensation in Tokyo, his wife, Bertha, who had left him a year ago, has complicated his attempted stable approach to inestimable wealth by returning to the family home and is sitting tight. He values his aunts' loyalty. He wants to build a new home for Lamar's sick mother. He is glad the rift with his father is healing.

What changes has Johnson seen in his man since the comprehensive battering into submission from which the bullying psyche of Tyson may never fully recover?

For a champion, he is wholly without self-aggrandisement. "I've never looked for anything outside my camp," he says. "Being champion is even better than I thought, but I can take it [the offers] or leave it. Yeah, people are trying to use me. I just sit back and observe."

His one wish is to buy a boat and

use it as a second home up on Lake Erie, a hundred miles north. Sailing? Fishing? "Just cruise," man," he says. He wants the boat to help him bring his family, including his grandparents, even more together. His present trainer, J. D. McCauley, is his mother's brother. He values his aunts' loyalty. He wants to build a new home for Lamar's sick mother. He is glad the rift with his father is healing.

Billy wanted him to be a puncher, like himself; Johnson and McCauley see him as a boxer. Father and son talked for an hour on the telephone before the contest in Tokyo and agreed that the son should carry the fight towards the man previously unbeaten.

When Douglas left Tokyo there were no more than 20 people, including a couple of local television crews, at the airport. When he returned home, there were 5,000

at Columbus airport and tens of thousands took to the streets at the official civic reception. "Most of them because of the shock," Douglas reflects, self-mocking.

"I was always confident against Tyson," he says, aware that in the whole world only Tim May, of the Columbus Dispatch, had tipped him to win. "My fight with Tucker wasn't a true reflection. I'd seen all the video of Tyson, seen other people hit him, but never follow up. I thought I had more to offer than them. The only thing that surprised me was the way Tyson was able to take some punches."

In the ninth and tenth rounds Tyson had found himself confronted with something unprecedented: an opponent who was not afraid. Why is Johnson not exploiting the circumstances, psychological and financial, to get an immediate rematch?

"Look, we've just played the

superbowl," Johnson says. I think we'd be at a disadvantage to fight Tyson again. Let him wait. I know we're gambling with an awful lot of money, but going for it might simply be greed."

Douglas expresses a wish common to many champions, and often unfulfilled. "I want to be able to help some other people," he says. "To help youngsters, the neighbourhood kids who look up to me. I'd like to sponsor some junior baseball and basketball teams, to make some good come of my title."

He is unconscious of any particular representation of blacks, seeing himself as no more than just another ordinary American. "I never wanted to be the centre of attention," he says. "Now I will be, but these people are everyday people. I'm not wanting too much for myself. You can only drive one car at a time."

BASKETBALL

Kingston's overdue harvest

By Nichola Harling

For a team who have dominated the English scene over the last five years, Kingston have had relatively few trophies to show for their remarkable consistency. Until this season, that is.

The knack of building on solid foundations has been discovered in time for Kingston to complete the most successful season of any English club and for Kevin Cade to become the most successful coach.

The Carlsberg League title, which was secured during a hectic weekend on the road, has come to rest alongside the NatWest Trophy and the even more impressive WICB crown. The indications are that between them, Cade and his players have put behind them all the agonies of past failures when Kingston, after a disappointing regular season, faded and died out in the last third of the season. Whether they can keep going,

this time and sustain their fitness over the next six weeks is another matter.

If Kingston are to finish the season with a record haul of five trophies, including the Carlsberg Championship and the Coca-Cola Cup, they will have to defeat the only three clubs to have upset them this season, Bracknell, Manchester Giants, and Sunderland.

But, having led Kingston to victories over Manchester and Sunderland on their home courts over the weekend, Cade feels confident that anything his squad "can do on the road," it can do equally well on the neutral territories of the London Arenas and the National Basketball Arena.

Birkenhead: "We'll feel kind of comfortable," he said, "especially if we can get some more intensity in the last third of the season.

Whether they can keep going,

ICE HOCKEY

Devils in record victory

By Norman de Mesquita

Cardiff Devils were presented with the Hanoverk League Trophy after Friday's televised game against Murrayfield Racers, then went on to register their fifteenth successive win, a premier division record.

The Racers continued a great deal to their own downfall, drawing 59 minutes in penalties and surrendering eight goals while they had players off the ice. If it was an attempt to establish some sort of physical or psychological edge over the Devils before the play-offs, it certainly backfired.

In contrast, on Saturday Nottingham Panthers and Solihull Barracudas played for most of the time in a high avoidance strategy, was far more dramatic than winning or losing. The Barrons won by the odd goal in nine at Nottingham and also beat Whitley Warriors on Sunday to clinch fourth place, their best premier division finish.

Less certain is whether they will break the scoring record for one season, 96, which was set more than 30 years ago by Barcelos. They scored their

FOOTBALL

Real set sights on goals record

Overseas football by Keith Blackmore

Real Madrid's dominance of the Spanish first division has diverted interest from the championship to lesser matters. Real, who have a lead of nine points with eight matches to play, seem certain to win their fifth successive championship, despite dropping a point on Saturday.

Less certain is whether they will break the scoring record for one season, 96, which was set more than 30 years ago by Barcelos. They scored their

85th on their way to a 1-1 draw with Athletic Bilbao in a match which was interrupted by Basque protesters.

Hugo Sanchez, the Mexican forward, scored Real's goal, his 31st of the season, preserving the faint possibility that he might surpass the individual scoring record of 54. But he is not even certain to finish as the leading scorer this season. The Austrian forward, Anton Polster, scored twice as Seville beat Real Zaragoza 4-0, taking his total to 27.

John Aldridge, another forward who has enjoyed a

prosperous season in Spain, had a more frustrating weekend. He dislocated a shoulder while training with Real Sociedad and will be out of action for at least two weeks.

Marselles loosened Bordeaux's grip on the leadership of the French first division, closing to within a point with a match in hand.

Jean-Pierre Papin scored all three goals as the French champions beat Toulon, taking his total to 24 for the season, and making sure that his club took full advantage of a lapse by Bordeaux, who drew with Montpellier.

In the Netherlands, PSV Eindhoven needed a goal in injury time by the defender, Valci, to salvage a point from the match against Twente Enschede.

It may be that the Dutch will have to import a foreign coach to help them become more competitive in Europe.

But it is not the only

league to have a difficult time this season. The first time this season.

Bayern Munich won what is likely to prove a difficult match in the West German championship. Strunz gave them the points against their nearest rivals, Eintracht Frankfurt and opened a four-point lead at the top of the table.

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John Barnwell, who has been an

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But it is not the only

Vicini says the British style is poorly suited for victory in World Cup

English chances for Italy dismissed

From Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent
Milan

England have been dismissed as potential champions of the world by Antonio Vicini. When the manager of Italy was asked yesterday to name the nations which might be capable of winning the World Cup in July, he was gracious and diplomatic enough to mention the names of no fewer than nine.

England, held to a goalless draw at Wembley by Italy five months ago, were not among them. The highest they rank, in Vicini's opinion, is to be included anonymously among the 15 or 16 countries who have a hope because the tournament promises to be so open.

He believes that the principal threats to his own side will be the holders of three main titles. As well as Brazil, the champions of South America, and the Netherlands, the champions of Europe, he surprisingly includes Argentina, who won the World Cup in 1986 but have recently shrunk in stature.

Conveniently, Vicini has been able to gauge the trio's present form. Italy's only defeat since the European championship was inflicted by Brazil, with a lone goal in October, and both Argentina, in a wretchedly ill-disciplined affair in Sardinia, and the Netherlands, held his side to goalless draws last month.

The Soviet Union, Spain and Uruguay were all bracketed among the dangers lurking beneath the favourites. Czechoslovakia was chosen as the most obvious example of a dark horse and West Germany, as usual, cannot be discounted. The rest of the field were not worthy of genuine consideration.

Scotland and the Republic of



Spelling it out: Vicini, the manager of Italy, instructs the group of players, who will he believes, provide "the stars of the tournament".

Ireland were excluded from his expansive list as well. "The British style is appreciated throughout the world," Vicini said. "It is energetic, athletic and physical but fair." By implication, the domestic representative promise to play insignificant, albeit "interesting", parts in the overall play.

Although he confessed that his knowledge of Colombia was limited

to watching them on television again England, he is convinced that the South American contingent will otherwise feel at home. "So many of them are the stars in the Italian League that they will be well supported here."

The countries from the Third World, too, are in his view no longer merely making up the numbers. The Africans, in the shape of Egypt and

especially Cameroon, who are to open the tournament against Argentina on June 8, could be ready to enter the World Cup spotlight.

In deflecting the criticism aimed at his own side, which has scored only one goal in the last five games, Vicini claimed: "We will have a good team." Moreover, he predicted that three or four of his individuals will be "the stars of the

tournament". For safety's sake, perhaps, he preferred not to name them.

Vicini cannot be accused of failing in his preparatory duties. Yesterday he flew on a spying mission to Budapest to check on the qualities of the United States, the weakest of the World Cup finalists, who are to play Hungary. That is how he will spend his 57th birthday.

Scotland and the Republic of

FOOTBALL

Taylor is unhappy at Aston Villa's live commitments

By Chris Moore
and Dennis Sinyay

Graham Taylor, the Aston Villa manager, appeared to be at odds with his chairman, Doug Ellis, last night over the decision to put next month's first division match with Arsenal back four days so that it can be televised live from Highbury on Wednesday, April 11.

It means the championship leaders will go 10 days without a match after April 2 and will then play three matches in seven days over the Easter period. Under the terms of the contract between the Football League and ITV, the television company can alter the date of only three matches, which they have already done.

But it transpired yesterday that their request to the League for a fourth switch on

First division leaders

A Villa 29 18 4 7 48 26 58
Liverpool 28 16 5 4 53 27 56
Chelsea 28 16 5 4 52 28 55
Arsenal 30 12 10 6 48 41 46
Nottingham Forest 29 12 10 6 48 41 44
Coventry 30 13 5 12 33 41 44

April 11 was granted after approval from both Arsenal and Villa.

Taylor was not in favour of the switch. "I cannot do anything about it, but then I am only the manager," he said sarcastically. "From a personal point of view I would have preferred the game to have stayed where it was. I cannot say I am really totally happy with it being moved because there is a difference to playing on a Saturday afternoon and under floodlights with the TV and everything else involved."

Barnwell dismissed by Walsall after lean run

John Barnwell was dismissed as Walsall manager yesterday after a run of 13 League games without a win. The club are seven points adrift at the bottom of the third division.

Barnwell, who still had two years of his contract to run, took over just over a year ago, but his failure to improve results led to him becoming the 26th manager to part company with a Football League club this season.

Paul Taylor, the club coach, will act as caretaker manager, starting with tonight's home game against Mansfield. Allan Clarke, who began his career at Fellowes Park, was the first candidate to be linked with the vacant post.

Malcolm Allen, the Welsh international forward, signed for Millwall from Norwich City in a £400,000 transfer yesterday. Oldham Athletic, the FA Cup

semi-finalists and Littlewoods Cup finalists, have asked the Football League if they can have their season extended beyond the official close on May 5 because they also face a backlog of league fixtures.

• Denis Salman, the Millwall utility defender, has joined Plymouth Argyle on £50,000 to become the fifth signing in a week for the club's new manager, David Kemp.

• Oxford United have paid £15,000 for the Doncaster Rangers' defender, Mark Johnson.

The 19-year-old, who has signed a two-year deal with the club, has given his gesture towards Bolton Wanderers' supporters on Friday after scoring in Wiggin's 2-0 win.

• FA TROPHY DRAW: Royal Shropshire Yeomanry, Larkhall Town, Kingstons or Huddersfield will play in the final at Wembley on April 7 and April 14.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Five holes in one

A tiny Welsh golf club could claim a place in the record books after five holes in one by their members in eight days.

The feats were accomplished on the nine-hole Hafod course in Cwm, where Lyndon Hinkin-Edward, the son aged 14, of the Flintshire County captain, is believed to be the youngest player ever to hole in one.

Crewman mugged

Edwin Clark, Cambridge's foreman for the Boat Race, was still recovering at home yesterday after being mugged last Friday. Clark was beaten by seven or eight attackers and suffered a broken nose, a torn ear, and a broken shoulder.

At noon today: Oxford 10am and 4.15pm; second outing, with Cambridge 10am and 3.30pm.

Xinhua ineligible

Chen Xinhua, who looks likely to win next month's vote to be considered for England when he becomes eligible on May 15, has had his entry for the English national table tennis championships in Oldham refused because the tournament takes place on May 6 and 7.

Blow for Kent

The South African allrounder Roy Piermar will not be returning to Kent this summer because of knee trouble.

YACHTING

Familiar sight as Steinlager leads the fleet

As 30-knot southerly winds brought a welcome end to the frustrating calms that have beset the Whitbread Round the World Race fleet since the start of the fifth leg from Uruguay to Fort Lauderdale, Peter Blake's Steinlager 2, the German Reich, is setting the pace more (Barry Picthall writes).

At noon yesterday, the 84ft maxi, which holds a 28-hour lead in the overall standings, had pulled out a four-mile lead over Roger Nilsson's Swedish entry, The Card, which in turn was followed by Grant Dalton's Fisher & Paykel.

They were followed by Pierre Fehlbaum's 100ft Maxi, from Switzerland, and the French entry, Charles Jourdan, skippered by Alain Gabay.

LEADING POSITION: Jeppesen at 1845 GMT, with miles to Fort Lauderdale, West Indies, 1000 miles from the start of the race. The Card, 1, Fisher & Paykel 2, The Card 3, Grant Dalton 4, Maxi 5, Fisher & Paykel 6, Charles Jourdan 7, Charles Fehlbaum 8, Charles Jourdan 9, Charles Jourdan 10, Charles Jourdan 11, Charles Jourdan 12, Charles Jourdan 13, Charles Jourdan 14, Charles Jourdan 15, Charles Jourdan 16, Charles Jourdan 17, Charles Jourdan 18, Charles Jourdan 19, Charles Jourdan 20, Charles Jourdan 21, Charles Jourdan 22, Charles Jourdan 23, Charles Jourdan 24, Charles Jourdan 25, Charles Jourdan 26, Charles Jourdan 27, Charles Jourdan 28, Charles Jourdan 29, Charles Jourdan 30, Charles Jourdan 31, Charles Jourdan 32, Charles Jourdan 33, Charles Jourdan 34, Charles Jourdan 35, Charles Jourdan 36, Charles Jourdan 37, Charles Jourdan 38, Charles Jourdan 39, Charles Jourdan 40, Charles Jourdan 41, Charles Jourdan 42, Charles Jourdan 43, Charles Jourdan 44, Charles Jourdan 45, Charles Jourdan 46, Charles Jourdan 47, Charles Jourdan 48, Charles Jourdan 49, Charles Jourdan 50, Charles Jourdan 51, Charles Jourdan 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SPORT

TUESDAY MARCH 20 1990

Call for greater isolation for England in Cup

From Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent, Milan

England's isolation in the World Cup finals could be even more complete than anyone had imagined. According to a member of FIFA's security committee, their three opponents in the first round should be ordered to fly in and out of Sardinia on the day of their respective games in June.

The extraordinary proposal is to be put before FIFA in Zurich on Friday by Paolo Casarin. Implicit within his case is the belief that only if the England camp outside Cagliari is isolated is civil order likely to be maintained on the island.

He will argue that the Republic of Ireland, the Netherlands and Egypt should all be confined throughout the initial stages of the tournament to Sicily, where the other ties in Group F are to be played. They will not apparently even be granted a day in which to prepare for their games in the Sant' Elia Stadium.

Nor will they be allowed to set up a temporary base in Sardinia. Although the Irish received official permission to stay in the Is Molas Hotel, where England will rest at the end of May before going to their training camp nearby, Casarin now opposes the plan.

Agents for FA Cup appointed

The Football Association took a step forward yesterday in their attempt to capitalize on the marketing potential of the FA Cup with the appointment of Telemundi UK as worldwide licensing agents (Peter Ball writes).

Telemundi, who already work for Wembley stadium, are internationally known in sports marketing, holding the rights for the World Cup, from which they expect to gross around \$30 million, and the rugby union World Cup.

"Nobody has done anything with the FA Cup, which we believe is after all one of the prestige finals in world football," Stuart Walker, Telemundi's managing director said last night. "We have been appointed to handle that and we have any ideas based on premium promotions."

"A lot of companies who want to merchandise material over a nine-month period could use the FA Cup and I believe that if we get our packages together right the revenues could be substantial."

Sanctions against Anfield Scots

By Roddy Forsyth

availability of John Barnes or Peter Beardsley whenever they were called into service for England.

"The biggest problem for Scotland has been the constant disruption we always face," he said. "You can put up with it when players can't help being withdrawn through injury. I think it is far more important that we have some sort of recognizable format."

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● Ian Rush, the Liverpool forward, is back in the Welsh squad for the match against the Republic of Ireland in Dublin on March 28.

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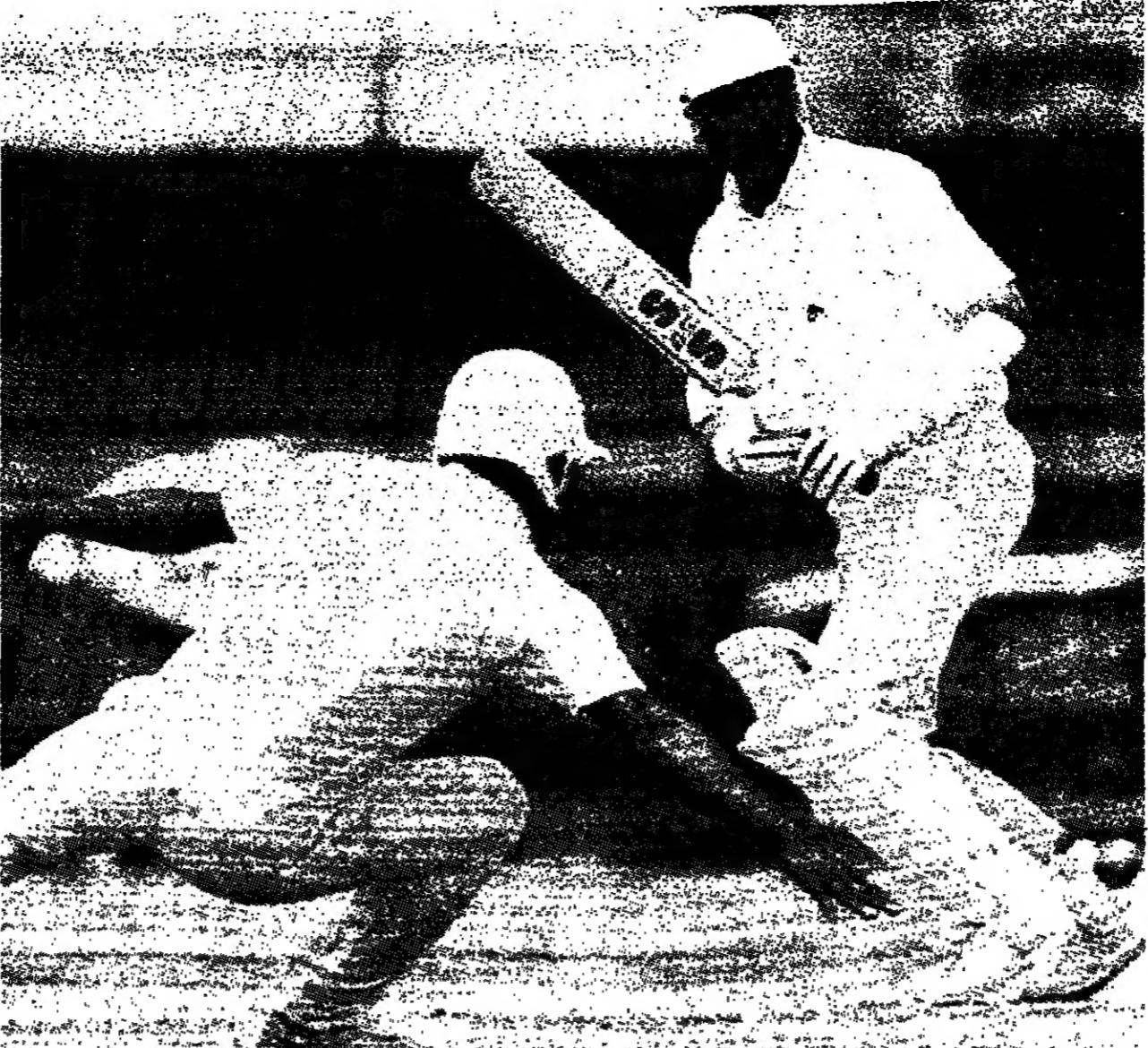
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Chancellor Gooch does his good turn

GRAHAM MORRIS



Net gain: Gooch gives Morgan a short square leg a taxing moment on his way to 61 before rain held up play yesterday

Defeat not in his budget

From Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent
Port of Spain, Trinidad

The longer this tour goes on, the more England have come to rely upon Graham Gooch. His captaincy commands devotion but his batting is simply indispensable to the remote and improbable mission being pursued by his team.

Yesterday was a case in point. The pitch was far from trustworthy, the opposition far from negligible. England, trailing by 42 on first innings, possibly faced a demoralizing defeat, immediately before the third Test.

Gooch responded in that way of his which, it sometimes seems, hurts him as much as it hurts the opposition. Scoring the runs which were once the essence of his game, Gooch exercised the sort of self-control which might appeal to a chancellor in Budget week.

He batted 162 minutes for 61, his second half-century of the match, and appeared to be steering England into calm waters when he was out at the moment the promised rain began pouring from a livid grey sky.

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